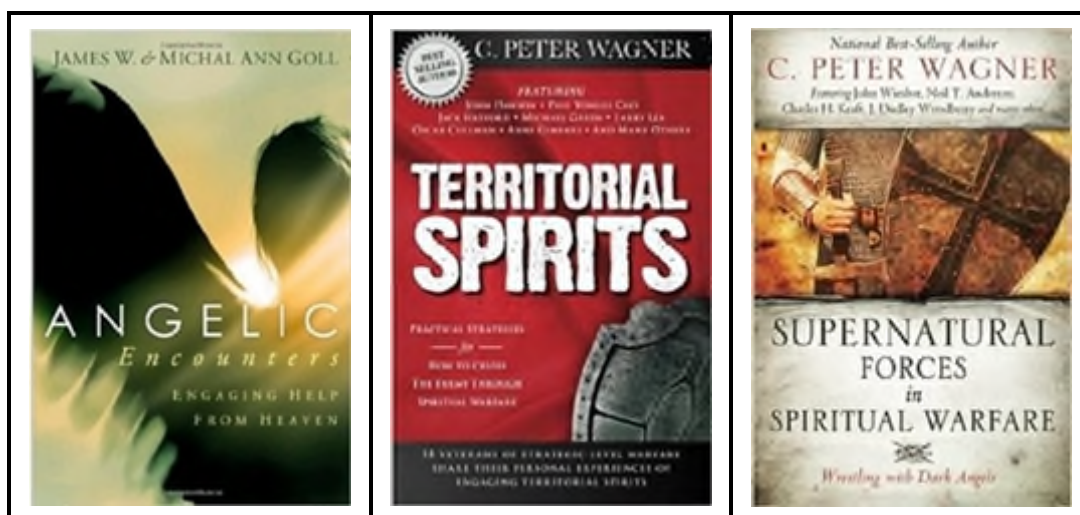


Proof that the New Apostolic Reformation is a Pseudo-Christian Cult

by Jeremy James



Many true believers are concerned at the depth of apostasy in the church today and, in particular, at the rate at which it is increasing. It is becoming harder and harder to find a local church that adheres faithfully to the basic truths of Christianity, without embellishments or distortions, and upholds the Word of God as the first and last authority in all matters pertaining to one's spiritual life.

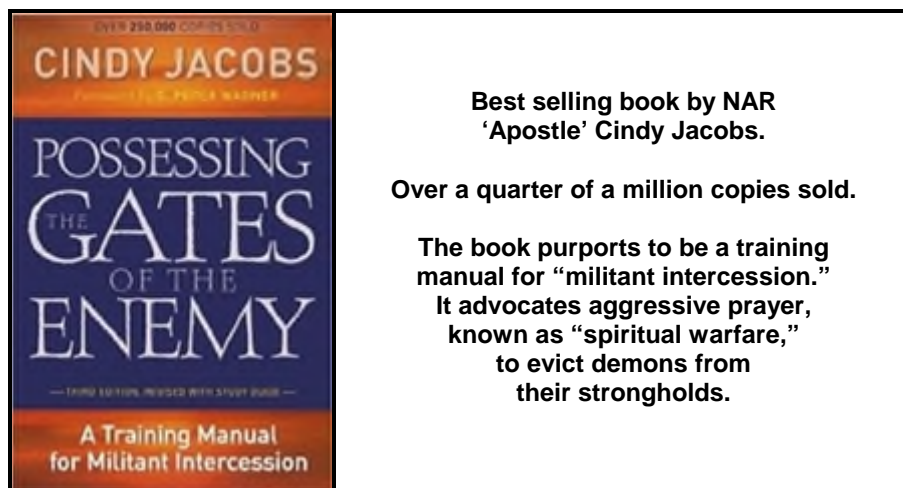
A common theme runs through much of the so-called Christian literature published over the past thirty years or so. Readers are generally addressed on the assumption that they want (a) personal, supernatural experiences, (b) evidence or demonstrations of divine power, and (c) the opportunity to fix the world in God's name. This is the great screen onto which the various doctrines and teachings of contemporary 'Christian' literature are being projected.

Yet, if we went back a hundred years or so we would find that the vast majority of Christians did **not** think like this. They were content to live by faith, *without* experiences, and *without* supernatural proof. And their common goal was, not to fix the world, but to preach the gospel. They were not seeking to wield and demonstrate spiritual power, but to ensure that as many souls as possible heard the good news of salvation and received a solid grounding in Christian doctrine.

They lived by faith, not by sight. They knew that if God wanted to give them something out of the ordinary, He would do so according to His sovereign will. And if He wanted to make the world a better place, He would do that too. They trusted to His mercy and to His providence. Their one thought was to continue in obedience to His Holy Word and to preach the gospel. They lived in the joy of their salvation and knew exactly what Paul meant when he said: "...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Philippians 4:11).

In fact, that was how believers lived for 1,900 years. But not any more.

It can hardly be said that the majority of today's believers are content. Judging by the books they are reading and the churches they are attending, they are hungry for experiences of God, for fresh revelation, for signs and wonders, for supernatural gifts, and for the opportunity to change the world for the better. The leaders of the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) are keenly aware of this hunger and are exploiting it to the full.

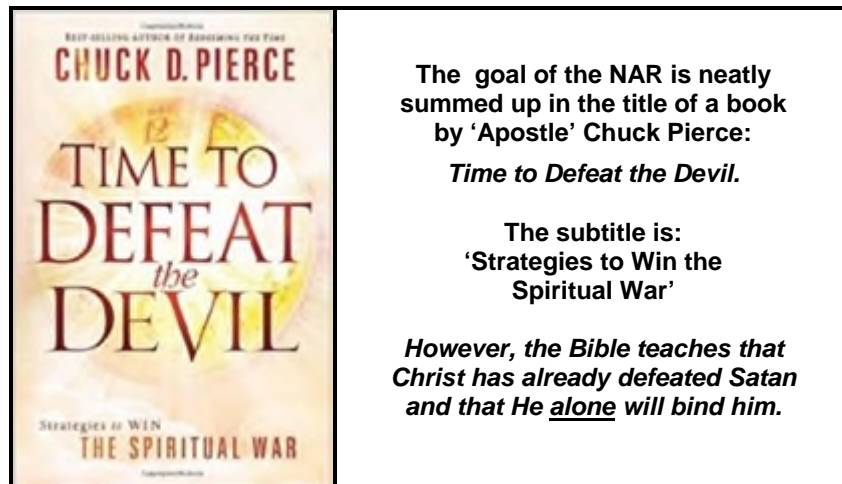


The Multi-pronged NAR Approach

In this paper we propose to examine the NAR primarily through the writings of one of its leading representatives, the 'Apostle' Dr Alistair Petrie of Canada.

In his excellent analysis of the New Apostolic Reformation – *Wandering Stars: Contending for the Faith with the New Apostles and Prophets* (Solid Ground Christian Books, 2011) – Keith Gibson looked closely at the teachings of such NAR luminaries as C Peter Wagner, Bill Hamon, Rick Joyner, Mike Bickle, Kim Clement, Chuck Pierce, and Francis Frangipane. While the organization has grown steadily under the skilful directorship of Wagner, its various leaders would seem to have a certain latitude as to how they apply its core doctrines and which elements they choose to amplify in their personal ministry. This would seem to be a deliberate policy, designed perhaps to identify and attract the broadest possible audience. Potential recruits who may be put off by the antics of Kim Clement or Bill Johnson, may be attracted instead to the version taught by Cindy Jacobs or John Eckhardt.

Dr Petrie teaches a version that appears to be designed to appeal more to former Roman Catholics and High Church Anglicans than, say, the version taught by Joyner or Bickle.



Characteristics of the End-Time One-World Church

To fully appreciate what the New Apostolic Reformation is all about, we need to take very seriously the warnings that our Lord gave us in Matthew 24 and the book of Revelation, as well as those given in the Epistles. They tell us that, before Christ returns, the world will adopt a counterfeit model of Christianity, a version that will facilitate the rise of an individual known as the Antichrist. His name may sound forbidding but initially he will likely appear to be as meek as Moses, as wise as Solomon, and as imbued with miraculous powers as Elisha or even Jesus. The whole world will greet this man, not realizing what lies in his heart.

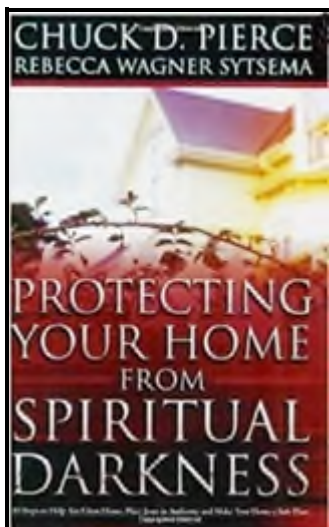
The coming one world religion will be led initially by the False Prophet mentioned in the book of Revelation. The doctrine that he teaches will, at a superficial level, be identical to that of Christianity, but it will be built on signs and wonders, not on faith. Jesus warned of this when he asked, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

John records that he was subjected to a number of shocks in the course of the events described in the book of Revelation, but none of them seemed to shake him as much as the sight of the woman "drunken with the blood of the saints" (17:6). This was the false Christianity that will rule the world in the End Time, the fallen "woman" symbolizing in this instance, as in others, a false religion. John was so shocked that he exclaimed "and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration" (KJV) or "And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement" (NKJV). Acknowledging the shock, the angel who was with John asked him, "Wherefore didst thou marvel?" The shock came, not at the sight of the false religion – for John had seen many of these – but at the *nature* of the false religion, an incredible counterfeit version of true Christianity.

The false religion that John described is currently in formation. The worldwide Ecumenical movement, overseen by the Vatican, is gradually drawing all branches of professing Christianity into a single organizational entity, where denominational distinctions will disappear and Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Evangelicals, Pentecostals, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Eastern Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, and many others will adopt the same creed and recognize the same world religious leader, who, at least initially, will likely be the Roman Pontiff.

For this to work, traditional Biblical Christianity must be dismantled and its various members absorbed into a suitable alternative. Many of these alternatives are already in place – the Purpose-Driven Church, the Emerging Church, the Word Faith movement, and the New Apostolic Reformation, among others. As more and more believers migrate into these seductive alternatives, the true gospel will be preached less and less. Before long the proportion of born-again believers among the greater body of professing Christians will have dwindled to almost nothing (note: almost!) – “Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

We should be immensely grateful that the Word of God has supplied the ‘big picture’ for our benefit. It allows us to see how a movement like the New Apostolic Reformation fits into this larger plan. Please keep the ‘big picture’ in mind as we examine this strange new version of Christianity.

	<p>The NAR is continually instructing its followers to confront the demonic realm.</p> <p>The powers of darkness are constantly emphasized, while the sovereignty of God and the blood of Christ are largely ignored.</p> <p>It even undermines confidence in the spiritual security of Christian homes.</p>
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A Note on Sincerity and Integrity

I am sometimes asked whether the leaders and champions of these various new forms of Christianity are being deliberately deceitful or whether they too are deceived. In a sense, it doesn't really matter. Either way, the true teachings of Christ are being corrupted. Remember the words of Psalm 44 (vv.20-21):

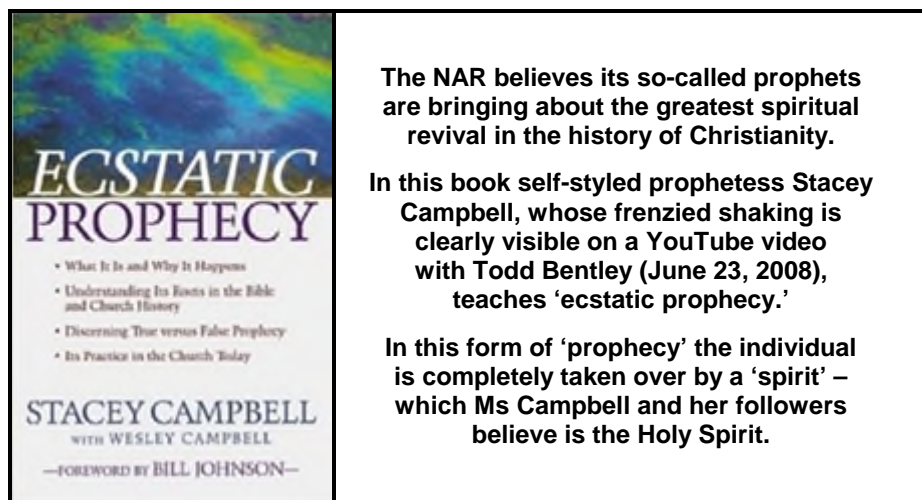
“If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out
our hands to a strange god; Shall not God search this out?
for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.”

Many who teach a false doctrine are sincerely motivated and truly care about the well-being of others. However, our task is not to judge “the secrets of the heart” but simply to hold their particular doctrine before the dazzling light of God’s Holy Word and expose the error. This is not even an optional course for true believers, but a binding obligation:

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

There was a time when professing believers had no difficulty obeying this commandment, but we have now entered the late phase in church history that Paul warned about:

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3)



‘Apostle’ Alistair Petrie

The leadership of the New Apostolic Reformation used to publish a list of its ‘Apostles’ but has not done so since 2005, except it would seem to NAR insiders (See **Appendix A**).

The official website of the self-styled *International Coalition of Apostles* gives C Peter Wagner’s definition of an Apostle, as follows:

“Christian leader who is gifted, taught, and commissioned by God with the authority to establish the foundational government of the Church within an assigned sphere of ministry by hearing what the Spirit is saying to the churches and by setting things in order accordingly for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.”

Source: <http://www.coalitionofapostles.com/about-ica/definition-of-apostle/>

The official website goes on to say: “This is by no means a comprehensive definition.” It claims that the ‘Apostle’ has full plenipotentiary powers, that he is “an Ambassador of the One who sent him.” Lest one fail to grasp the full significance of this, the website adds: “The emissary of the King is as the King Himself.”

To fully understand the mentality of the NAR leadership, it is essential that one recognizes the extent of their claims. They genuinely believe that they been specially commissioned by God in just the same way that Christ commissioned the Apostles. They believe they have the *same* authority and the *same* supernatural gifts. While these gifts may not be possessed in equal measure by all ‘Apostles’, collectively they occupy the plenipotentiary office of the original Apostles and have been commissioned by God to exercise that office in a New Apostolic Age which, according to Wagner, began in 2001:

“We have now entered a Second Apostolic Age. The form that the Church is taking can be called the “New Apostolic Reformation.” I use the word “Reformation” because we are now witnessing the most radical change in the way of doing church since the Protestant Reformation back in the sixteenth century.” – *Apostles Today* (2006), p138

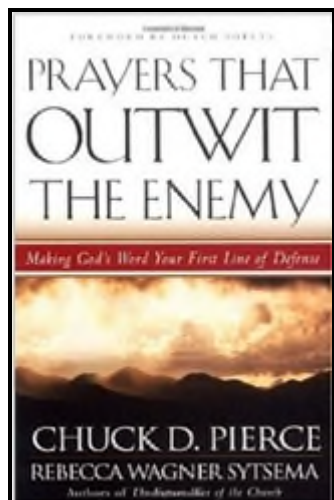
Many of the so-called ‘Apostles’ have written books setting out their own particular slant on the NAR and its ambitious global agenda. Alistair Petrie, the ‘Apostle’ we are examining, has published three:

Releasing Heaven on Earth: God’s Principles for Restoring the Land (2000)

Transformed! People, Cities, Nations (2003)

God’s Design for Challenging Times (2013).

We will discuss his teachings by reference to the material in these books, quoting other ‘Apostles’ where appropriate in order to show more fully how the entire NAR program fits together. [All quotations are from his first book, ***Releasing Heaven on Earth***, unless otherwise stated.]

	<p>The NAR teaches that it is possible to “Outwit the Enemy” – but this is false!</p> <p>The Bible makes it quite clear that, where intelligence is concerned, Satan has no human equal:</p> <p>“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.” - Ezekiel 28:12</p>
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The Land

The key idea in Dr Petrie's teaching – and a central doctrine of the NAR – is that the land needs to be healed and that it is the responsibility of all true Christians to do this. If the land is 'healed' then the oppressive demonic presence that has claimed legal access to the land is removed. Once this happens all who live on the land are rendered immediately more receptive to the gospel message. This allows another wave of NAR "warriors" to take the next step and demonstrate the truth of the gospel with signs and wonders. A lot of NAR literature is devoted to the methodology and techniques that need to be employed to successfully reclaim the land from Satan – a process known as "spiritual warfare." If this is done in a systematic way, they claim, entire cities can be won for Christ.

The key passage of Scripture that Dr Petrie uses to support the NAR 'land healing' doctrine is 2 Chronicles 7:14:

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves
and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will
I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin *and will heal their land*"

[p15] [Emphasis in original]

It has been stated many times by respected Biblical scholars for over two hundred years that a major doctrine should never be based on a single verse from Scripture. In addition, it has long been accepted that the true meaning of any verse can only be established from its context, and never in isolation. When we apply these simple principles of Biblical interpretation to Dr Petrie's proof text, we find that his understanding of this key verse is totally incorrect.

Let's first look at it in context. The chapter relates to the consecration of the first Temple and an appearance by the Lord to Solomon. The Lord promised Solomon divine favor on condition that he remained obedient to His statutes; otherwise he would incur divine punishment. The following verses give much of the context:

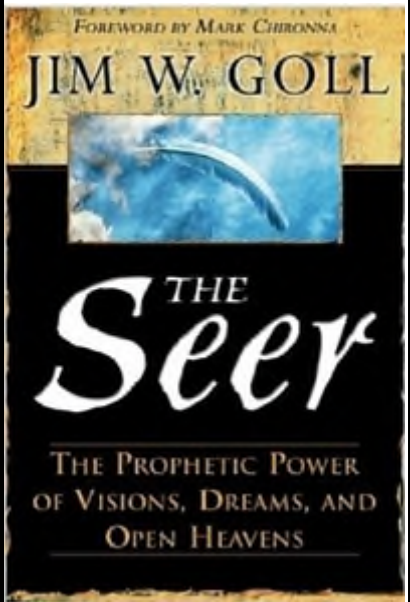
- [11] Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.
- [12] And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.
- [13] If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;
- [14] If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
- [15] Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.
- [16] For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.
- [17] And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;
- [18] Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel.

When we consider verse 14 in context we can see that it relates to judgment! God will punish His people if they depart from His statutes. The failure of the land is simply the judgment dispensed through the sovereign will of the LORD consequent on the disobedience of His people. It is *their* sin that is forgiven, not the 'sin' of the land! Once their sin is forgiven, God in His mercy will restore the fruitfulness of the land.

Could anything be plainer? Dr Petrie's interpretation is simply ridiculous. The land cannot sin; neither can it serve as a repository for sin. Its fruitfulness fails because God in His sovereign will decrees that it should fail. There is no demonic component to any of this, and no supernatural malaise affecting the land. The fruitfulness of the land is not restored because the inhabitants 'do' anything to the land or in relation to the land. It is restored exclusively through a sovereign act of mercy by the LORD.

The Petrie/NAR interpretation of this verse gravely distorts several key elements of Biblical truth. Through it they seriously mischaracterize the nature of sin; they downplay and undermine the sovereignty of God; and they reduce the judgment of God to something that man, through the exercise of his spiritual talents, can somehow circumvent. What is more they introduce the idea that the land is somehow held captive by demonic forces and that this occupation will persist indefinitely until man himself intervenes.

The following statements would be inexplicable if they were made by a traditional evangelical believer. However, once we recognize the truly eccentric attitude that the NAR takes to Biblical interpretation, it becomes easier to see how Dr Petrie can make such bizarre pronouncements:

	<p>Many books by leading figures in the NAR, notably those by Jim Goll and Patricia King, are audaciously New Age. In <i>The Seer</i>, Goll explores "the prophetic power of visions, dreams, and open heavens."</p> <p>Note the <u>white feather</u> on the cover, which is a well known 'angelic symbol' in the New Age movement. Here is how a popular New Age author defined this symbol:</p> <p>"Because angels are such high frequency beings, very few people ever see or hear them. So they make their presence known in other ways. Little white feathers are their symbols, so if an angel wants to draw your attention to the fact that it is there, it will leave a little white feather in an unexpected place."</p> <p>– Diana Cooper</p> <p><i>The Angelic Meaning of White Feathers</i> [Findhorn Press Author Articles, August 17 2013]</p>
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“When referring to the theology of land, we are speaking of the relationship between God and land – that is, how land reflects the character, nature, goodness and justness of God, especially through the lives of those who live and work on the land. This is a recurring theme throughout the Old Testament.” [p15]

The ‘theology’ of the land? God’s ‘relationship’ with the land? This is definitely not a recurring theme in the Old Testament. Such ideas are rooted rather in the animism of primitive religions.

“As a result we need to understand God’s perspective on land, and why He views any form of sin that takes place on the land as a serious issue. When it comes to land, He is a “jealous” God (Joel 2:18).” [p16]

God hates sin. The fact that sin takes place "on the land" is incidental. In practice, virtually all sin takes place on the land. And He is a jealous God because of the covenant He has made with His chosen people, not because of the land.

“Repeatedly Scripture shows the connection between God, people, land and geography, based on the people’s attitude and relationship to God at any given time.” [p35]

Reference to land and geography is unavoidable when discussing the activities of a pastoral people. To interpret this as a "connection" between God and the land is nonsensical.

On p.33 of ***Releasing Heaven on Earth*** he quotes approvingly from the book, ***The Land***, by Walter Brueggemann, who refers as follows to the theft of Naboth’s land by Jezebel:

“Naboth is responsible for the land, but is not in control over it. It is the case not that the land belongs to him, but that he belongs to the land. Naboth foresees himself and the land in a covenantal relation...”

Naboth did **not** belong to the land; **neither** was he in a covenantal relationship with it! The people of Israel, as a nation, are in a covenantal relationship with the LORD who will pour upon them all the blessings of Deuteronomy 28 if they continue in His ways. And if they don’t He will impose upon them in judgment the curses set out in the same chapter.

These “curses” are judgments from God. They are *not* demonic and have no demonic component! And yet Dr Petrie continually tries to attach a demonic element to these curses, rather like the curses found in *witchcraft*, but they are *not* curses of that nature. He then comes up with a complicated doctrine and set of techniques for removing them. A discernible strain of pantheism runs through his entire philosophy. In fact, at one point he even exclaimed: “It is almost as if the ground appears to have a will of its own.” [p147]

The language of the NAR reflects the militancy of its teachings.

The subtitle of the Yoder book is:

“Discover How Our Gate-Crashing, Wall-Breaking God
Brings Victory to Every Area of Life.”



“Apostolic unity is task-oriented, visionary,
aggressive, warlike and often abrasive.”
– C Peter Wagner, *Apostles Today*, p127

Defiling the Land

Each false doctrine paves the way for its successor. Having interposed the land between God and man, he now proceeds to ascribe to the land the power to evict man. The proof text for this is in Leviticus. As he says:

“Leviticus 18:27-28 makes it clear that the people of an earlier generation were involved in various forms of defilement, which subsequently affected the land, and that similar defilement would cause the land also to “vomit you out.”...The sin of prostitution, in other words, a form of fallen stewardship, affects the whole of that land area.” [p43]

Again we must look at these verses in context:

- 24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:
- 25 And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and **the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.**
- 26 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you:
- 27 (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)
- 28 **That the land spue not you out also**, when ye defile it, **as it spued out the nations that were before you.**

- 29 For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people.
- 30 Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God.

The inhabitants of Canaan were evicted by the LORD in judgment, using the Israelites as His instrument of punishment. We are told in Genesis 15:16 that “the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.” The word “Amorites,” as used here, designates the inhabitants of Canaan as whole, during the period that the Israelites were in Egypt. They practiced child sacrifice and every conceivable vice. Their sin was a sin against God, not against the land. When it finally reached a particular state of depravity, the LORD passed judgment upon them. Note the key words in verse 25 – “therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it.” This is an act of God’s sovereign will, not a response by the land to those who defiled it. The severity of this judgment from the LORD was a stern warning to the Israelites that if they too, as the new inhabitants of the land, were to offend against the LORD in an equally sinful manner, they also would be thrown out. And that is precisely what happened.

The LORD was creating a sanctified people, a people set apart, a chosen people. They could not be allowed to defile the land wherein He had graciously deigned to Tabernacle among them. Their subsequent sin was against the LORD through their neglect and repudiation of the holy covenant that He had made with them. So, in the exercise of His sovereign will, He threw them out. The land itself had no role or part in this sovereign act, and to suggest that it had is a blasphemous distortion of the singular judgment of the LORD on a rebellious people. It makes a mockery of the warnings delivered by the prophets as they tried to get the Northern Kingdom and then Judah to mend their ways and return to the LORD. The two kingdoms had rejected the LORD and, despite countless warnings, had refused to repent.

That was why they were judged. *That* was why they were evicted!

Cleansing the Land

The so-called cleansing of the land that the NAR purports to achieve through its many ‘prophetic’ techniques is meant to have a far-reaching, transformative effect, both on the land and on those who inhabit it. Here is how Dr Petrie described it:

“As land is healed, the veil of blindness is lifted and the eyes of communities are opened to the Gospel. *It is possible to change the disposition of an entire community in its attitude toward God!* In fact, this is not only possible but required for effective evangelism with lasting results.” [p206] [Emphasis in original]

This is little more than Christianized shamanism. It’s as if a dark spell, which had been cast upon the land by an evil witch, has finally been broken and the simple peasants can be happy again. Incredibly, not only is he asserting that this is a Scriptural activity, but that it is essential for “effective evangelism.”

The following quotations highlight the great importance that the NAR attaches to this cleansing process and to the spiritual transformation that is meant to occur on foot of it:

“The point is, curses and bondages on the land do exist. But there is an even greater truth: We as God’s stewards have the responsibility and authority to remove them!” [p147]

“Once sin is removed, the enemy has no more foothold or jurisdiction, either in the lives of the people of God or on their land. Then, when sin is removed, we experience God’s healing in our lives, both individually and corporately.” [p179]

“The book of Ezekiel ends with these words: “The name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.” What a simple yet profound statement! When land is healed, God’s presence dwells in the midst of His people.” [p182]

These statements are shameful. Dr Petrie takes one of the most wonderful promises of the Bible and converts it into a brazen endorsement of pagan mysticism. The closing verse of Ezekiel (“...and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there” – 48:35) refers to the physical return of Christ to dwell among men in the city of Jerusalem. The Word of God proclaims that the Lord is there because **THE LORD IS THERE!** This is not a shamanic ‘healing of the land’ but the glorious culmination of countless Biblical prophecies.

We find also in these statements the unbiblical merging of sin, judgment and curses into an amorphous entity that man himself can remove from the land. This is a travesty of true Christian theology. Sin is not being described for what it is, namely a manifest expression of man’s rebellion against a Just, Holy, and Righteous God. The resulting judgment of God – sometimes described as a “curse” – is a fair and equitable punishment for that sin. The land is not “cursed” in a demonic sense, and neither are the people. Furthermore, the punishment will be lifted by God – and God alone – in accordance with His sovereign will if the people repent.

The NAR perverts the plain Biblical meaning of sin, judgment, repentance, and God’s sovereign will and constructs an entirely new theology based on land, curses, demonic power, and human authority.

This gross misrepresentation of sin and judgment runs right through the NAR philosophy. It helps to explain why its leaders repeatedly ignore large portions of God’s Holy Word, especially those relating to End Time prophecy. Since they bring the sin and disobedience of humanity to a terrifying climax, where God’s wrath falls upon all who have rebelled against His sovereign will, they show that the blissful ‘Kingdom Now’ scenario of the NAR cannot be true.

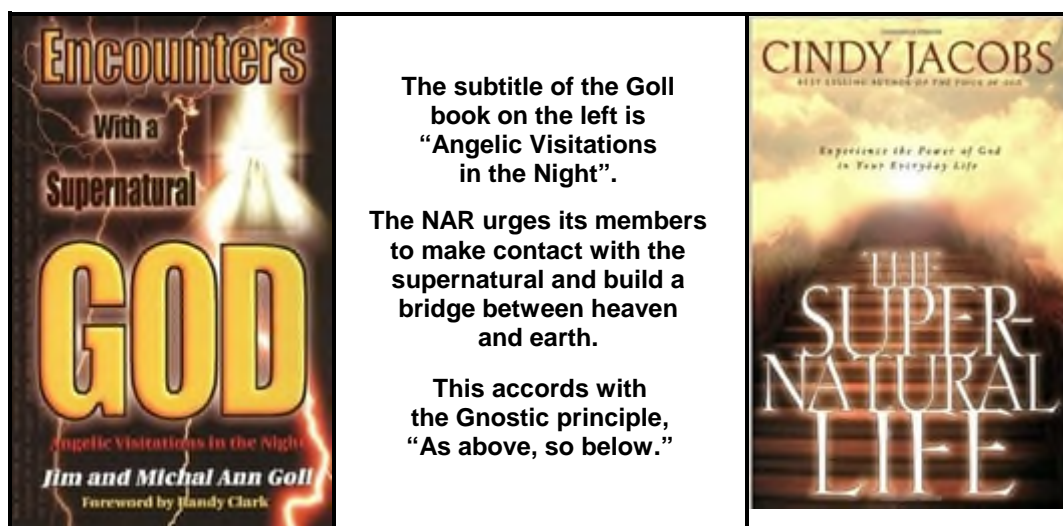
This is why the NAR leaders will rarely if ever mention the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Antichrist, the coming counterfeit version of Christianity, the false Prophet, or the Millennial fulfillment of every prophetic promise that the LORD God made to the nation of Israel.

The only prophecies that interest the NAR are the ones promulgated by their own official prophets. The prophecies given by the LORD in His Holy Word are largely secondary, if they apply at all.

Dr Petrie must have been challenged by some of his admirers regarding the prophetic future of Israel and the Replacement Theology implicit in his Kingdom Now eschatology because, in his latest book, *God's Design for Challenging Times* (2013), he made a lame attempt to cover his tracks:

“The issue of Replacement Theology is a key challenge for a number of theologians and biblical scholars today. Many adamantly believe that the church has replaced Israel and is the recipient of all his divine favor and destiny. However Israel will not go away!” [p29]

Note that he does **not** reject Replacement Theology, but merely states that “Israel will not go away!” It is through such artful and evasive comments that the NAR hopes to disguise its true attitude towards the nation of Israel and toward the wealth of Biblical prophecies regarding her future restoration in Millennial glory.



The Steward

Reference has already been made to the concept of “steward” –

“The point is, curses and bondages on the land do exist. But there is an even greater truth: We as God’s stewards have the responsibility and authority to remove them!” [p147]

This concept is central to the NAR philosophy of transformation. Through it they both justify their ambitious agenda and rebuke anyone who dares to question their authority – since the ultimate “stewards,” the ‘Apostles’, are beyond reproach.

They base their concept of the steward on the mandate given by God to Adam before the Fall:

“This is one of the very first directives given to man by God: “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15). The Hebrew word *shamar* used in this verse has many meanings: to hedge around something, to keep, to guard, to watch as a watchman, to protect. That is our stewardship responsibility – nothing less than *to keep the land*.”

[p22] [Emphasis in original]

“According to biblical stewardship, God calls us to manage all that belongs to Him... We are both *keepers* and *preservers* of creation, caring for it in God’s name and on His behalf.” [p25] [Emphasis in original]

This is an extremely far-reaching claim, and yet it had never been made during the 1,900 years of Christian scholarship that preceded the New Apostolic Reformation. It was also unknown among the Jews in ancient times and has never been seriously propounded by any responsible theologian.

The following foundational propositions by Dr Petrie reveal just how formidable this assignment is meant to be:

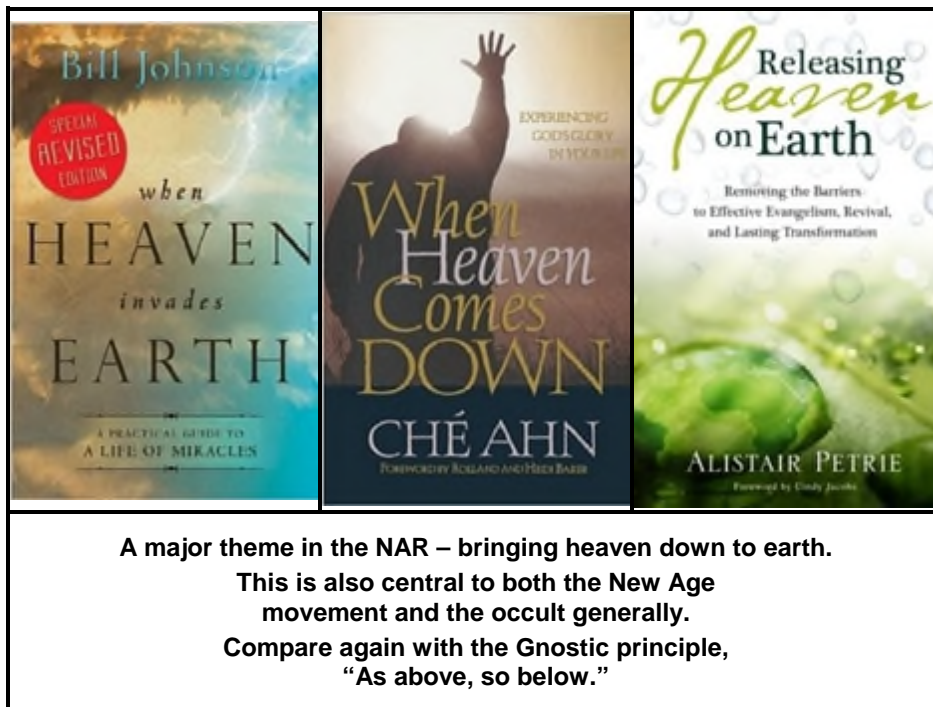
“He has entrusted to us the care of the world because the earth truly belongs to Him.” [p53]

“Biblical Christianity would argue that the role of the steward defines our mission as people of God.” [p26]

“Later we will see that a steward is called to reclaim for God the land that is rightfully His, which has been lost through fallen or sinful stewardship.” [p39]

Even if we disregard the many internal contradictions in much of what Dr Petrie is claiming in his book, ***Releasing Heaven on Earth***, these statements mark a jaw-dropping departure from traditional Biblical Christianity. They portray the believer, not as a wretched sinner redeemed by the blood of Christ, but as a keeper and preserver of creation, doing in God’s name and on God’s behalf what the Bible tells us God alone can do.

According to Dr Petrie and the leadership of the NAR, all who come to Christ are transformed into stewards of creation, called by God to reclaim for Him the land that is rightfully His. This concept of man is similar in many ways to the “little gods” theory taught by Word Faith gurus, Kenneth Hagin and Benny Hinn.



The Bible says very little about the stewardship role that God had envisaged for man *before* the Fall. However, it ought to be perfectly plain to even the least discerning believer that man *lost* that role *after* the Fall! He was thrown out of the Garden and cut off from God. He changed from being a God-centered creature to a self-centered one, wretched, sin-damaged and utterly lost. The salvation that we have in Christ does not restore us, while still on earth, to the pristine condition that Adam enjoyed before the Fall. We are still sin-damaged sinners in a sin-damaged world. The whole of creation groans under this sin. Therefore to imagine that the believer is now called to exercise the presumed Adamic role of keeper and preserver of creation is utter foolishness.

One will search in vain through the New Testament for even the slightest hint of the mandate conceived by Dr Petrie. One won't find it because it isn't there, and it isn't there because it isn't true.

The mandate that we do find, however, is the Great Commission. Alas the NAR even manage to mangle that by turning it into the task of 'Christianizing' all nations and converting them into 'disciples.'

Before discussing this claim, let us first consider the verses from Scripture that describe the Great Commission, the task that the Lord has entrusted to all believers:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16)

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:47)

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

For over 1,900 years these verses were understood to mean, very simply, that believers were to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the furthest ends of the earth. But the NAR took the text of Matthew 28:19-20 from the error-strewn NIV translation and said, Hey, what we’re really supposed to do is *Christianize nations!* -

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)
[NIV]

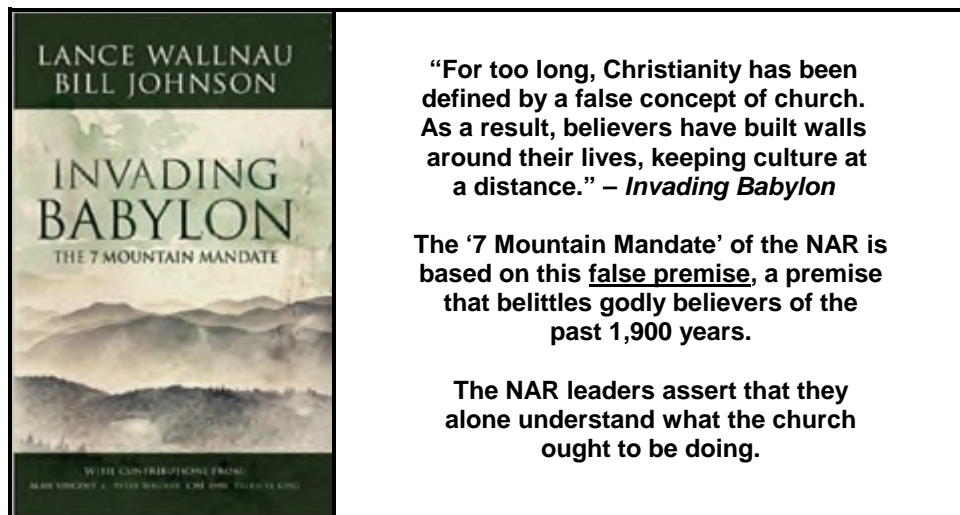
This, of course, is absurd. One cannot baptize a nation or turn a nation into a “disciple”. The original Greek word for “make disciples” is *mathēteuō* (Strong’s G3100). It simply means to teach or instruct. Here is a more detailed definition from Thayer’s Greek Lexicon:

μαθητεύω: 1 aor. ἐμαθήτευσα; 1 aor. pass. ἐμαθητεύθην; (μαθητής); 1. intrans. τινί, to be the disciple of one; to follow his precepts and instruction: Mt. xxvii. 57 R G WH mrg., cf. Jn. xix. 38 (so Plut. mor. pp. 832 b. (vit. Antiph. 1), 837 c. (vit. Isocr. 10); Jamblichus, vit. Pythag. c. 23). 2. trans. (cf. W. p. 23 and § 38, 1; [B. § 131, 4]) to make a disciple; to teach, instruct: τινά, Mt. xxviii. 19; Acts xiv. 21; pass. with a dat. of the pers. whose disciple one is made, Mt. xxvii. 57 L T Tr WH txt.; μαθητευθεῖς εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρ. (see γραμματεῖς, 3), Mt. xiii. 52 Rec., where long since the more correct reading τῇ βασ. τῶν οὐρ. was adopted, but without changing the sense; [yet Lchm. inserts ἐν].*

The literal sense of the original Greek is expressed as follows in Young’s Literal Translation:

“having gone, then, disciple all the nations, (baptizing them – to the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”

In other words, go to all nations, make or instruct disciples, and then baptize them. It does not mean – and cannot mean – to make disciples of the nations themselves. But the plain meaning of plain language has never stopped maverick ‘scholars’ from twisting Scripture. Moreover, their tricks generally get results because a great many professing Christians today never bother to check and compare these eccentric claims against God’s Holy Word.



The Mandate

Thus the mission of the NAR is to ‘Christianize’ all nations. This involves clearing away the invisible obstructions that impede the effective dissemination of the gospel. According to the NAR leadership, the invisible barriers are somehow embedded in the land and it is the task of the NAR acolytes to remove them. Once they have been removed or “cleansed,” other “spiritually gifted” members of the NAR can come in and demonstrate the truth of the gospel through signs and wonders.

According to Dr Petrie and the NAR, believers have been given a divine mandate to execute this plan. To do this effectively they must learn to get God’s perspective on reality and proceed from there:

“As we keep all this in mind, it is now time to take up our position as stewards of God’s land. We need to see reality with a set of divine lenses, recognizing what has to be uprooted and removed, and what preparation needs to be undertaken, so as to prepare for a rich and lasting harvest. God expects no less of His stewards.”

[p139] [Emphasis added]

We can discern here the awesome responsibility – and corresponding supernatural anointing – that God has assigned to His NAR “stewards.” Their belief that they can root up and pull down as they see fit is based on Jeremiah 1:10. As Dr Petrie says:

“According to Jeremiah 1:10 God can even give certain nations the mandate to root out and pull down.” [p36]

Here is the verse in question (which Dr Petrie himself did *not* quote):

“See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.” (Jeremiah 1:10)

Again we are witnessing an outrageous misuse of Scripture to support a false doctrine [Cindy Jacobs makes the same false claim in *The Voice of God* (p46), as does Dutch Sheets in *Intercessory Prayer* (p200)]. The LORD is plainly speaking to Jeremiah himself and not to a nation, and the ‘power’ he has given him is the power of *prophecy*, to ability to declare in advance the LORD’s righteous judgments upon certain nations. Jeremiah is not himself the originator or executor of those judgments! Note in particular the preceding verse:

“Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.” (Jeremiah 1:9)

By completely ignoring the context of a chosen verse, Dr Petrie is able to lead his readers wherever he chooses. And unless they have taken the trouble to examine his claims against Scripture, they fail to see how preposterous they are.

This is a recurring problem with any NAR book that I’ve read. Their propensity to twist and manipulate Scripture for their own purposes is simply stunning at times.

Strongholds

Another important concept in the NAR philosophy is that of the *stronghold*. Much of what they teach relates one way or another to the destruction of ‘strongholds’. Dr Petrie gives several definitions of what is meant by a stronghold:

“In his book *That None Should Perish* Ed Silvos defines a stronghold as “a mindset impregnated with hopelessness that causes us to accept as unchangeable situations that we know are contrary to the will of God.” Cindy Jacobs, in *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*, defines strongholds as “fortified places Satan builds to exalt himself against the knowledge and plans of God.”” [p83]

On p.84 he quotes Otis and Brockman, editors of *Strongholds of the 10/40 Window*:

“Spiritual strongholds are invisible structures of thought and authority that are erected through the combined agency of demonic influence and human will. In this sense they are not demons, but the place from which demons operate.”

He then gives his own definition:

“A sphere of influence on and within our lives, families, churches, communities, cities and even nations that feeds on sin (both individual and corporate, personal and inherited) and that gives *spiritual and geographical leverage* to the enemy of God’s people, thus blinding them to the truth of seeing things from God’s perspective.”

[p85] [Emphasis in original]

Thus, depending on which NAR ‘Apostle’ is speaking, a stronghold can be a mindset of hopelessness, a fortified place built by Satan, an invisible structure erected by demonic influence and human will, a place from which demons operate, a sphere of influence that feeds on sin, and a place that Satan uses to blind believers to the truth from God’s perspective.

Their concept of a “stronghold” is highly elastic, possibly because vague, chameleon ideas like this are difficult to refute. Strongholds are not purely demonic, purely territorial, or purely manmade, but a strange amalgam of all three. The NAR experts have been unable to explain, except perhaps in mystical terms, where these “strongholds” come from, how they persist, or what they do to impede the gospel. But whatever they are and whatever they do, the NAR “warriors” have the power to destroy them. And when that happens a great liberation occurs:

“...as land is cleansed, the people who dwell in it are set free from the bondages and negative mindsets that blind them from God’s purposes in their lives.” [p95]

There is a further difficulty. Strongholds seemingly have the ability to move about and are not necessarily confined to one locality:

“Strongholds that are received and transferred from person to person are *transferable* to churches and communities and cities and nations, based on the stewardship issues that characterize the people who compose the population.” [p100] [Emphasis in original]

In light of the manifold properties of strongholds and their ongoing threat to the spiritual well-being of society, Dr Petrie redefines the role of the church as follows:

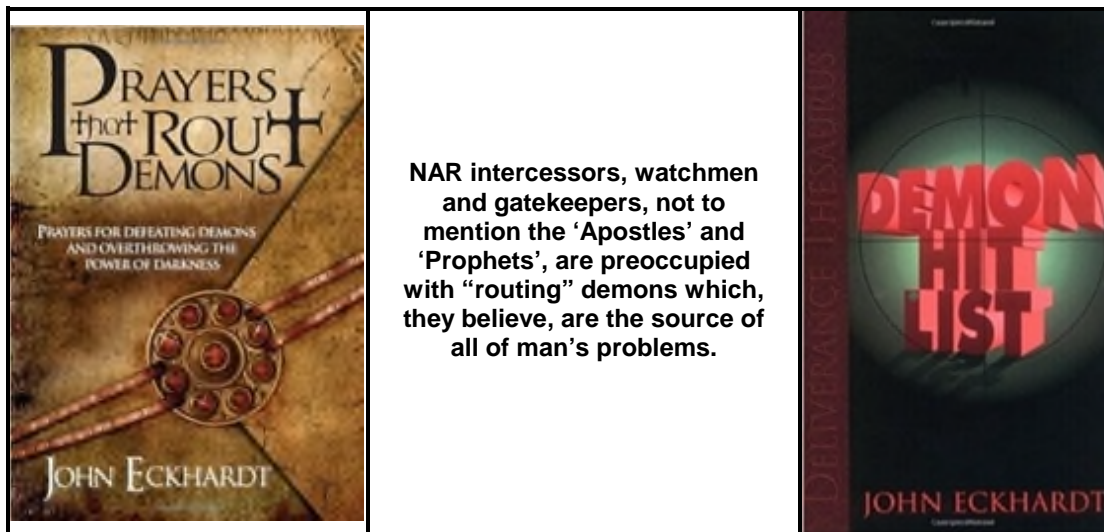
“This must surely be the aim of the Church – to transfer individuals and communities and nations from false strongholds into the stronghold of the living God, and to lead them into being changed from one degree of glory to another (see 2 Corinthians 3:18).” [p138]

This entire scenario is so loosely defined, so steeped in mysticism, and so far removed from Biblical truth that it is difficult to see how any professing believer could take it seriously. Dr Petrie has effectively constructed a Christianized form of shamanism, where all the problems of human existence are ascribed to evil spirits, where sin is in some way linked to a demonic presence, and where the path to healing and wholeness is unblocked by the expulsion of these wicked intruders.

The shamanic character of his teaching will become even more apparent when we examine the role played by *intercessors*, *watchmen* and *gatekeepers* in ‘cleansing’ the land.

Demonic Powers

Christ defeated Satan and the works of darkness on Calvary, but this glorious truth is greatly diluted in the NAR version of Christianity. As they see it, Christ earned this great victory but left its successful execution to man. Most NAR leaders teach that, until man redeems the entire world from Satan – thereby bringing in the kingdom – Christ will not return to earth. Some of them even teach that Christ *cannot* return until this divinely appointed commission has been fulfilled.



As they see it, man is engaged in an ongoing supernatural war against Satan and his demonic hoard. According to Dr Petrie, “Sin, whether on the part of an individual, a group of people, a city or a nation, gives a legal foothold to the enemy.” [p80] On account of sin, most of the earth is under demonic control or legal jurisdiction. Man must win back this land, street by street, city by city, until the entire earth is once again in God’s hands and the kingdom is restored.

This raging conflict requires that believers be extensively trained in “spiritual warfare” and proceed in a systematic fashion, using a range of newly revealed techniques like “spiritual mapping,” to win back territory on a worldwide basis. In doing so every effort must be made to maximize the use of all available resources and spiritual gifts. According to the NAR leadership, the church has finally reached the stage of maturity where it understands this divinely appointed task and what it must do to carry it out. Past Christians were content merely to preach the gospel but they failed to appreciate the full extent of the Great Commission and what God actually required of them. This is why the LORD is now raising up a new cadre of ‘Apostles’ and ‘Prophets’ – for the first time in nearly 2,000 years – to empower the church and lead the great army of true believers to final victory.

According to Dr Petrie, “...the entire sociopolitical infrastructure of a community can be under demonic influence based on an original and continuing defilement of the land.” [p78]. For this reason the NAR emphasizes the need to take over or ‘Christianize’ the institutions that Satan is supposedly using to control society. Toward this end they have identified seven major areas where select teams of intercessors or “prayer warriors” must concentrate their efforts. At present the “seven mountains” that must be taken are business, government, family, religion, media, education, and entertainment. This essentially involves, not just “cleansing” the sectors concerned, but ultimately placing one’s own people in high positions within each sector or converting those already there.

As part of their mandate to conduct ongoing spiritual warfare against the Enemy, they have categorized demons by power and authority. Dr Petrie has identified several kinds, but seemingly there is one type – *kosmokratoras* – that “commonly afflict[s] people”:

“If we sin at the *kosmokratoras* level...and do not deal with the effects of that sin, then our area of influence where we live becomes subject to the legal access of the demonic realm.” [p79]

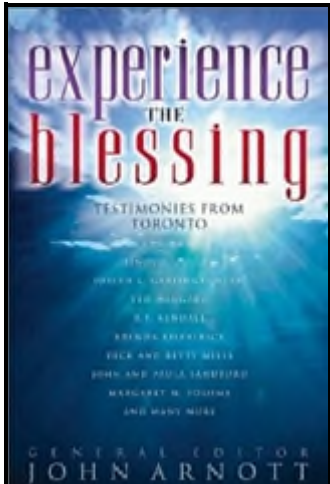
Once again he makes a real supernatural connection between sin and evil spirits, as though the problem of sin is the alleged “legal access” that it gives to evil spirits and not the offense that it causes God. This serious mischaracterization of sin is endemic throughout the NAR and makes it virtually impossible for its practitioners to preach the gospel correctly.

Despite the importance that it attaches to “spiritual warfare” and the identification of demonic strongholds, the NAR has demonstrated an astonishing inability to recognize demonic activity when it is disguised as “an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” Consider, for example, the following quote by Dr Petrie:

“Wagner cites the recent examples of Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida, and the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship. Both churches prayed fervently for revival over a season of time, although it is probably more accurate to suggest that they experienced “renewal” rather than revival.” [*Transformed!* p72]

He is endorsing, along with Dr Wagner (and most of the NAR leadership), the patently unbiblical phenomena that occurred at both Toronto and Pensacola. Some of the manifestations at these locations were so horrendous – and so inimical to the character and work of the Holy Spirit – that they could only have come from a demonic source. And if that is the case, then the spirit at work in both locations was at all times deceitful and unclean for, as James 3:11 says, the same fountain cannot bring forth both sweet water and bitter.

It should be noted that the Vineyard Church at Toronto Airport is overseen by an ‘Apostle’ in good standing.

	<p>This book contains over two dozen individual testimonies of professing Christians who visited Toronto to receive the so-called ‘Toronto Blessing.’</p> <p>Crazy fits of non-stop laughter, phrenetic shaking and crying, the spontaneous utterance of weird animal noises, and similar abnormal phenomena were routinely manifested in the Vineyard church at Toronto Airport.</p>
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The 'Lakeland Incident' provides an especially egregious example of the appalling lack of discernment that dogs the highest levels of the NAR leadership. On June 23, 2008, several senior NAR leaders appeared together on stage at a special public 'anointing' of Todd Bentley in Lakeland, Florida. Bentley's performances are often akin to those of a spirit medium. His antics can be revolting, but in the eyes of the NAR leadership – the 'Apostles'! – he is seen as a great prophet and man of God. During much of the ceremony Bentley lay writhing on the floor, covered in his trademark tattoos, even as 'prophetess' Stacey Campbell hissed above him like a serpent, shook violently, and spat out her demented 'prophecies.'

Among the NAR leaders who participated in this spectacle were C Peter Wagner, Wesley Campbell, Rick Joyner, John Arnott and Bill Johnson. These are the people that Alistair Petrie works with, who call him an 'Apostle', and who share a platform with him.

A video recording of this deplorable event may be seen on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=macIFwHROaM>

Binding and Loosing

Another shamanic interpretation of Scripture that Dr Petrie and others often employ is that of "binding and loosing." This is drawn from Matthew 16:19 and 18:18, where the latter reads: "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." In it Christ is telling the Apostles that they will have responsibility for regulating the church on earth after He ascends and that whatever essential decisions they make for that purpose will be recognized by Him.

Now consider the Petrie/NAR interpretation of the verse:

"Cindy Jacobs summarizes the ministry of binding and loosing:

Binding stops the enemy's attacks. Loosing releases or permits God's will to enter the situation because God has willed that His purposes be carried out by asking in prayer.

Whether we are praying for individuals or for a corporate community, binding the work of the enemy follows confession, repentance and forgiveness of sin. In this way the bondages and strongholds are addressed directly, evil spirits that may have had the right of access to that situation are cast out, and God's healing and authority in that situation are loosed." [p190]

In the strange world of the NAR, binding and loosing refers to the spiritual power that men have over demons, "binding the work of the enemy," denying him "right of access," and casting him out, thereby "loosing" God's authority over the situation.

Even by NAR standards, where semantic distortions are commonplace and context is usually ignored, this ‘interpretation’ amounts to a cynical mutilation of God’s Word. And yet we should hardly be surprised. The NAR ‘Apostles’ believe they possess the right to decide what the Bible “really” means, just like the Pope – yet another person who believes he possesses Apostolic authority.

Sometimes Dr Petrie goes so far beyond Biblical truth that no misapplication of Scripture, however ingenious, could ‘support’ what he is trying to prove. For example, on p.212 of *Releasing Heaven on Earth* he quotes with approval the following from *City of God, City of Satan* by Robert Linthicum:

Every city has a “spirit” about it – an almost palpable essence distinct from every other city. It is a combination of that city’s history, surroundings, and systems, even people who have moved through it, and events that have occurred in it. If we cannot name, understand, and cope with our city’s spirit, we cannot hope to understand either the complexity of our city’s spiritual warfare, or the scope of ministry to which the church is called.

This description of the invisible dimension of a city is grounded firmly in a shamanic worldview. It would not be out of place in a work by Helena Blavatsky or Rudolph Steiner. Linthicum even claims that one must know the name of the demon controlling a city before one can successfully evict him.

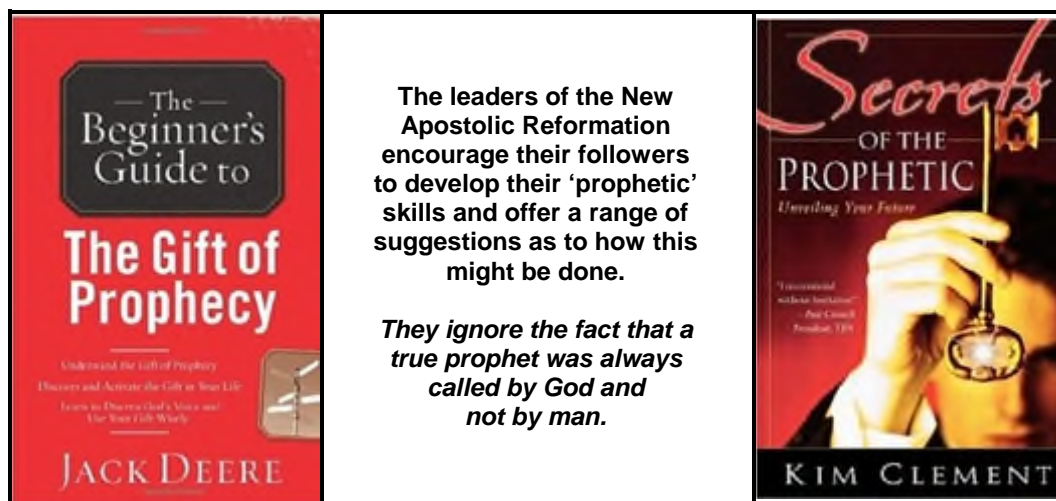
The Word of God never asks us to become involved in anything of this kind! In fact it enjoins the very opposite. We are to shun pagan philosophy and have no involvement whatever in practices of this nature. What Petrie and Linthicum are offering is the wisdom of this world – which is foolishness with God. Nothing remotely close to this is taught anywhere in God’s Holy Word. In the few instances where a demon is confronted in the Bible (apart from cases of possession) it is done by an angel of God, never by a man. Christ alone withstood Satan face to face during his trial in the wilderness, but he did not seek in any way to constrain him or limit his authority. He simply spoke God’s word.

What the NAR is proposing is potentially very dangerous. Except in cases of possession, man has never been given a mandate to oppose or bind demons. And even in cases of possession, the demon is not bound but simply evicted. There is very clearly an ongoing conflict between the elect angels and the fallen angels, but man himself is not part of that conflict. Our recourse has always been our Rock and our Salvation, our Shield and our High Tower. As the Psalmist say, “Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.” (Psalm 57:1) The battle is His, not ours. Deliverance is within His power, not ours.

To delve into the demonic realm and to presume to know how to engage fallen angels in battle is foolishness of the worst kind. What could be more pleasing to Satan than to lure men away from their high tower and have them trust in their own strength! No doubt he will give them some ‘victories’ initially in order to confirm them in their folly, but when the time is opportune he will strike.

The New Apostolic Reformation is leading vast numbers of naïve Christians to their destruction. The more they rely on their clever techniques and their inflated authority, the more they open themselves to forces they don't understand and cannot contain. The demonic realm is filled with dangers and deceptions of every kind. To presume to have the power or the authority to constrain the freedom that God, for the time being, has allowed to Satan and his demons is sheer madness.

Christ won the victory on Calvary, a complete and perfect victory. He will bind Satan and his demons when He returns at his Second Coming. Until then we are to trust in His protection and fulfill the great commission. Our wonderful High Priest is watching over us. He will ensure that we come to no harm, but if we persist in walking away from our high tower and engaging the enemy in conflicts that are none of our concern, then we are putting ourselves in harm's way.



Sacramental and Prophetic Acts

Dr Petrie's teaching is heavily laced with sacramentalism. As an ordained minister in the Anglican Church (the UK equivalent of the Episcopalian church), he is already working in a sacramental tradition. The Anglicans practice infant baptism and believe in the real presence of Jesus in the communion bread (known as consubstantiation, as distinct from transubstantiation which the Catholics teach). They also use 'holy water' and conduct an assortment of rituals and liturgical rites over the course of the church calendar. The Anglican and Catholic churches are so alike that an Anglican clergyman can convert to Catholicism and serve thereafter as a Roman priest.

Though he insists that the sacramental practices that he employs are not magical, he nonetheless believes they affect the spiritual realm and take away sin:

"There is nothing magical in salt or water. But when used in the power of the Holy Spirit, by His direction, they release the integrity of the Lord into situations so as to remove sin and defilement in the spiritual, and then physical, realm. There is a deep connection here with the redemptive nature of Jesus Christ." [p193]

How these rituals 'connect' with the “redemptive nature of Jesus Christ” is unclear. Could they not possibly connect with something else? And if they did, how would one know?

Here he describes how he uses salt in these rituals:

“At such times [e.g. in locations where blood has been shed] we use consecrated salt, undertaking a prophetic act on a symbolic basis that has an effect in the spiritual realm.” [p191]

Again he affirms his belief in the supernatural implications of his physical actions. We will return again to this principle since it is central to the entire NAR philosophy.

Note also that the salt is “consecrated.” What exactly is “consecrated salt”? Dr Petrie seems to believe that it has certain transcendental properties that ordinary salt does not possess.

He then explains the role that salt and water play in these cleansing rituals:

“As an Anglican clergyman I have used holy water for many years in a variety of ministries, particularly in connection with healing and deliverance. With salt symbolizing the removal of corruption, and water symbolizing the living reservoir of God’s grace, their combination can be a symbolic act of significant authority in both the spiritual and physical realms.” [p194]

In addition to “consecrated salt” and “holy water,” he uses oil and a *shofar* – a ram’s horn trumpet or bugle, akin to the type used in the Old Testament:

“Oil establishes the mark of God’s authority and sovereignty. So it is that we literally anoint buildings, doorways, windows – indeed, the parameters of the ground associated with the people and places requiring liberation.” [p198]

“We began to engage in significant prayer and prophetic acts using salt, water and oil. The shofar was blown at all corners of the land...”

[*Transformed!* p170]

These sacramental rites are designed to cleanse the land of demonic influence and spiritually liberate its inhabitants from demonic oppression. The salt, water and oil, as well as the blowing of the *shofar*, are believed to assist in this process. Other NAR ‘Apostles’ and leaders employ similar techniques, sometimes in ways we could hardly imagine:

“Ruth Ruibal describes how the leadership of Cali, Colombia, undertook such an act when they released holy oil from a helicopter over the city!”

[*Transformed!* p182]

The shamanic nature of these sacramental practices is well illustrated by the following excerpt from an occult primer, *Spiritual Cleansing: A Handbook of Psychic Protection* by Draja Mickaharic, 1982:

“Consecrated Salt

This may be obtained at any Roman Catholic Church, and a pinch of consecrated salt between the sheets on your bed will be of assistance in “earthing” you, and keeping your nightly expeditions to the astral realms under some control. Sprinkling your bedsheets with holy water will also help...Holy water can be obtained from a church or religious supply store.” [p34]

At least practitioners of the occult recognize the manifestly magical nature of these sacramental practices, even if many professing Christians do not!

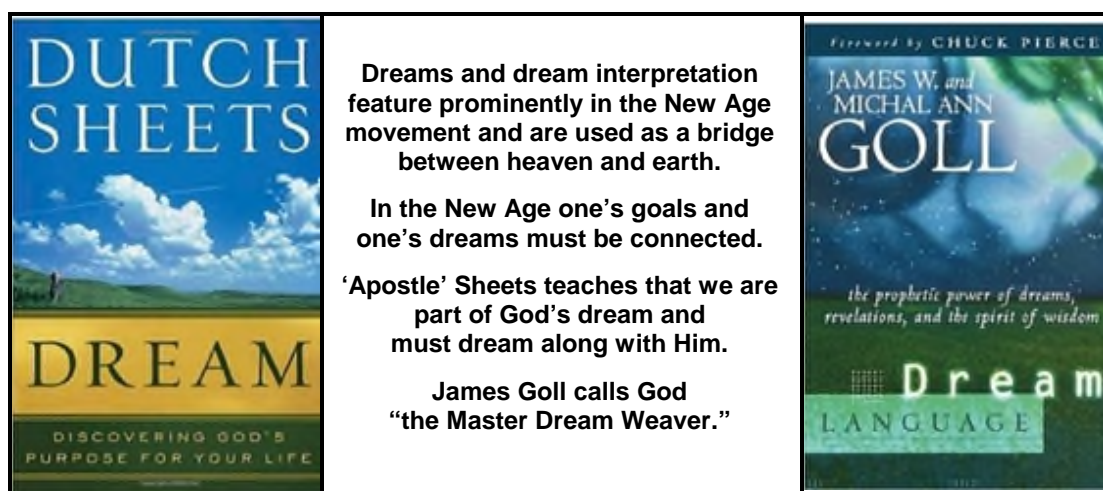
Communion and Ecumenism

The mystical unction or power that is meant to be present in “consecrated” salt, oil and water is also deemed to be present in the bread of the Lord’s Supper:

“We are finding that when we celebrate Communion together on the land where sin has taken place, we are undertaking a prophetic act that bears witness in the spiritual realm. Whatever is blemished, whatever is defiled, is being brought before the Lord by His servants so that the cleansing blood of Christ becomes the final sacrifice required for the removal of sin in that area.” [p199]

“As we share Communion, we are acknowledging the power of the blood of Christ in the cleansing of His land. We are also acting as responsible stewards of His property by releasing the promises and blessings of God on His people and land.” [p200]

It is difficult to give a rational account of what is meant to be happening in these rituals. They are believed to constitute a “prophetic act” that triggers a transformative move of some kind in the spiritual realm. Incredibly, Dr Petrie even refers to the communion bread as “the final sacrifice” in a locality where earlier sacrifices had taken place.



Frankly, all of this – the consecrated salt, the holy water, the oil, the sacrificial bread – is little more than Roman Catholic sacramentalism. These pagan rituals, and the vile heresies that underpin them, were imported long ago into the Roman Catholic Church and are now making their way, via the New Apostolic Reformation, into the evangelical church.

Dr Petrie actually endorses, perhaps unwittingly, Roman Catholic sacramentalism:

“Whether we call this the breaking of bread, the Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist, holy Communion or Mass, we are referring to the other major sacrament in the Christian Church, alongside holy baptism.” [p198]

The Mass? He equates the Lord’s Supper with the Roman Catholic rite of the Mass! Apparently the blasphemy of the Mass, with its repeated “sacrifice” of Christ, is of no consequence to Dr Petrie – or even to fellow ‘Apostle’ Cindy Jacobs who wrote the Foreword to his book, or to NAR kingpin, C Peter Wagner, who supplied the Foreword to Petrie’s later book, *Transformed!*

The truth of the matter is that the NAR despises denominational distinctions. According to his book *Apostles Today*, Dr Wagner first announced the concept of the New Apostolic Reformation at the National Symposium of the Post-Denominational Church in 1996. The NAR shares with Rome the goal of pulling all branches of professing Christianity into a single worldwide entity shorn of all organizational distinctions. They are almost certainly working in tandem behind the scenes to create the coming One World Religion.

The following observation shows that Dr Petrie, and very possibly a number of other ‘Apostles’, already regard Roman Catholics as part of the Body of Christ:

“Baptists teach us about salvation, while Methodists and Presbyterians inform us of social issues. Pentecostals share about the power of God through the Person and ministry of the Holy Spirit, while Nazarenes and Wesleyans testify about the importance of holiness. Roman Catholics teach us authority and the fear of the Lord, while the Anglican/Episcopalians model the wonderful balance of preaching the Word of God within the guidelines of liturgy and worship...These are just a few examples of the extraordinary diversity within the Body of Christ.”

[p131] [Emphasis added]

According to Dr Petrie the NAR seeks “True unity in the Body of Christ” (p131), which of course means a visible unity, over and above the perfect spiritual unity that already exists. He makes many statements which show that the ultimate goal is the elimination of denominational distinctions. For example when he went to Wales and the Hebrides to discuss with old-timers the brief revivals that had taken place there many decades ago, he wanted to know what factors had caused the revivals in each place to die out so quickly:

“The answer I heard over and over again was that unity was lost due to denominationalism, jealousy and sometimes criticism, and this lack of unity then dislodged what had been developing among the people of God.” [*Transformed!* p137] [Emphasis added]

Later, he expressly approves the ecumenical paradigm:

“The liturgical church joins hands with the charismatic church, which joins hands with the Pentecostal church, which joins hands with Word of Life church and the Full Gospel church and so on. The Church at large is increasingly recognizing the need to be in fellowship.”

[*Transformed!* p217]

Revival

The whole of the NAR is dedicated to revival, but revival of a particular kind, a massive global revival that will bring in the Kingdom. Here is how C Peter Wagner put it in his Foreword to Petrie’s book, *Transformed!* -

“There is a consensus among Christian leaders with whom I associate that a season of great revival, most likely an outpouring of the Holy Spirit unprecedented in Christian history, is just around the corner. I believe it will happen in this generation.”

“I would think that God wants His next revival to be different. I would think He wants “[His] will done on earth as it is in heaven,” as Jesus taught us to pray; not to be a flash in the pan but to transform the societies in which we live on a long-term basis.”

Dr Wagner and his fellow ‘Apostles’ believe this great outpouring is about to happen and that the ‘Apostles’ were raised up by God for this very purpose. The world was not ready until now, but finally, after 1,900 years, the right people, principles, attitudes, structures and behavior patterns are coming together as God intended:

“What, then, is God waiting for? What are we to do in order to see God’s revival blessings released? At least one of the things, very possibly the main one, that God is waiting for is to be sure that His people understand and are prepared to implement the principles, the attitudes, the structures and the behavior patterns necessary to sustain revival. That is what this book is all about.”

[Foreword to *Transformed!* by C Peter Wagner]

This eschatology is usually called Dominionism, the belief that the church itself must bring in the Kingdom before Christ can return. It rejects the End-Time eschatology of the traditional evangelical church, where the Rapture, the Tribulation, the reign of the Antichrist, and other events prophesied in Scripture must occur before Christ returns in person to reign on earth. However, the NAR leaders usually try to conceal their contempt for the plain teaching of Scripture regarding End Time events. Some, like Dr Petrie, even try to deny their Dominionist agenda:

“Exploring such a question does not portend taking a position for a “dominion theology.” If anything, Scripture implies an increasing intensity in the extent of evil in society prior to the return of Christ. However, Scripture also directs us to remain busy fulfilling the work of the Kingdom of God on a day-to-day basis until the Lord returns.”

[*Transformed!* p41]

But this is just a smokescreen! His real views are clearly expressed in the following quotations from the same book:

“I believe God is calling His Church into an extraordinary season of preparation for a divine visitation on a scale that goes beyond our comprehension. However, God also expects us to steward this coming revival so that His transforming power can impact every aspect of society with lasting results.” [*Transformed!* p45]

“It is my passionate belief that God wants entire cities to come under the influence and joy of His transforming power, and revival can be stewarded in order to release authentic transformation and allow the presence and the glory of God to be made manifest.” [*Transformed!* p45]

“Many people sincerely believe that the Great Commission is now within reach and that the prophecy of Matthew 24:14 may be fulfilled in our lifetime.” [*Transformed!* p218]

	<p>The New Age movement is intensely interested in communication with angels.</p> <p>The subtitle of King’s book is ‘Experience the Supernatural in Your Life – Angelic Visitations, Prophetic Dreams, Visions, and Miracles.’</p> <p>The Foreword to the Goll book, <i>Angelic Encounters</i>, states:</p> <p>“Those who operate at the highest level of discernment of spirits are able to see into the invisible realm. They can see the angels of God... the Golls are eager for us to see into this supernatural realm.”</p> <p>Warning: All of this is profoundly occult!</p>	
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Watchmen, Intercessors and Gatekeepers

Like the Catholic Church, the NAR is clericalist in structure. It is run by an elect few, who appoint one another. These men and women profess to have received a “special anointing” from God which entitles them to bear the title of ‘Apostle’. The next layer is that of ‘Prophet’, who also possesses a special anointing, though apparently not of the same degree or authority as that of ‘Apostle.’ Much of the “prayer warrior” work – land ‘cleansing’, ‘prayer walking’* and ‘spiritual mapping’ – is done by three categories of quasi-clerical servants: intercessor, watchman and gatekeeper. It would take too long to describe the powers and “giftings” of each, but for all practical purposes they are deemed to possess the authority needed to carry out the “prayer warrior” function. [**Prayer walking* is a technical term in the NAR and is not equivalent to praying while walking.]

The Future according to the NAR ‘Apostles’ and ‘Prophets’

“There is a consensus among Christian leaders with whom I associate that a season of great revival, most likely an outpouring of the Holy Spirit unprecedented in Christian history, is just around the corner. I believe it will happen in this generation.” – **C Peter Wagner**, Foreword to *Transformed!* by Alistair Petrie (2003)

“The greatest outpouring of the Spirit in history will be released just before Jesus’s second coming. In this great revival, the Holy Spirit will release the miracles that were seen in the Book of Acts and the Book of Exodus combined and multiplied on a global scale...” – **Mike Bickle**, *Growing in the Prophetic*, p77 (1996/2008)

“What will this glorious Church look like in the midst of spiritual revolution? ...Signs, wonders, and miracles will be normal in the time of revolution. Believers will walk through walls, turn water into wine, and feed multitudes with a few loaves and fishes. They will encounter angels and heavenly creatures, ascend and descend into the throne room, soar like eagles in the realm of the spirit, and even move mountains and other objects through supernatural means...” – **Patricia King**, *Spiritual Revolution*, p184 (2006)

“A revolution is coming to Christianity that will eclipse the Reformation in the sweeping changes that it brings to the church. When it comes, the present structure and organization of the church will cease to exist, and the way that the world defines Christianity will be radically changed...The changes that are coming will be so profound that it will be hard to relate the present form of church structure and government to what is coming.” – **Rick Joyner**, ‘Revolution’, *The Morning Star Prophetic Bulletin*, May 2000. Also quoted by **Chuck Pierce** in *The Future War of the Church*, p299 (2001).

The Future according to the LORD

1 Timothy 4:1 - Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.

2 Timothy 3:1-3 - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 – Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

/...

2 Timothy 4:3-4 – For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Matthew 24:21-25 – For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

2 Peter 3:3-7 – Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Luke 21:8-12 – And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

Daniel 9:27 – And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Isaiah 66:3-5 & 15-16 – Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not. Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed... For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Since the demonic profile of every city is different, it must be mapped. This requires research into the history and culture of the city, neighborhood by neighborhood, and careful examination of any factors that might reveal the class and purpose of the Enemy encampment. This can even entail site visits and inspections to determine the geography of the spiritual realm. As Dr Petrie says:

“Doing so involves “walking the beat” in a spiritual sense, looking for suspicious contours of change in the spiritual realm that may be observable within the physical realm. Indeed, what we see taking place around us in the physical realm is very often a reflection of what is going on in the spiritual realm, and for this reason we must be able to see and think with the eyes and mind of Christ.” [*Transformed!* p172]

As mentioned earlier, the NAR believes it is necessary to target seven specific sectors in the “entire sociopolitical infrastructure of a community” in order to achieve “social transformation.” This means appointing leaders in each of these sectors and using them as “gatekeepers” to facilitate spiritual intervention by the NAR intercessors. (It should be noted that “social transformation encompasses spiritual transformation” – C Peter Wagner, *Apostles Today*, p120.)

Dr Petrie describes this complex process as follows:

“While not every leader in these fields will always be regarded as a gatekeeper, there are those who are given specific God-given convocation and influence within their respective jurisdictions. They are affirmed or voted in by those they represent and who called them to fill this role.” [*Transformed!* p175]

“In most present-day prayer circles, intercessors are regarded as the watchmen of a city. In many cases, though, watchmen are not only intercessors but leaders. The watchman is the person who stands before God on behalf of the land so He does not have to destroy it because of its sin (see Ezekiel 22:30).” [p222]

We could give dozens of similar quotations by NAR leaders.

There is nothing Biblical about any of this! It is confusing, irrational, and utterly misconceived. It turns the plain message of the gospel into a cryptic conundrum that only a genius could unravel. Instead of the simplicity that is in Christ, we have an insane mixture of mysticism and pagan ritual, territorial exorcism and sacramentalism, overseen and controlled throughout by an elite cadre of self-appointed ‘Apostles’ and ‘Prophets.’

As Above, So Below

As disturbing as this may be, it actually gets worse. We noted earlier a quotation that we need to examine further:

“At such times [e.g. in locations where blood has been shed] we use consecrated salt, undertaking a prophetic act on a symbolic basis that has an effect in the spiritual realm.” [p191]

We also quoted the following in the preceding section:

“Indeed, what we see taking place around us in the physical realm is very often a reflection of what is going on in the spiritual realm, and for this reason we must be able to see and think with the eyes and mind of Christ.” [*Transformed!* p172]

The idea behind each of these is succinctly put by Dr Petrie as follows:

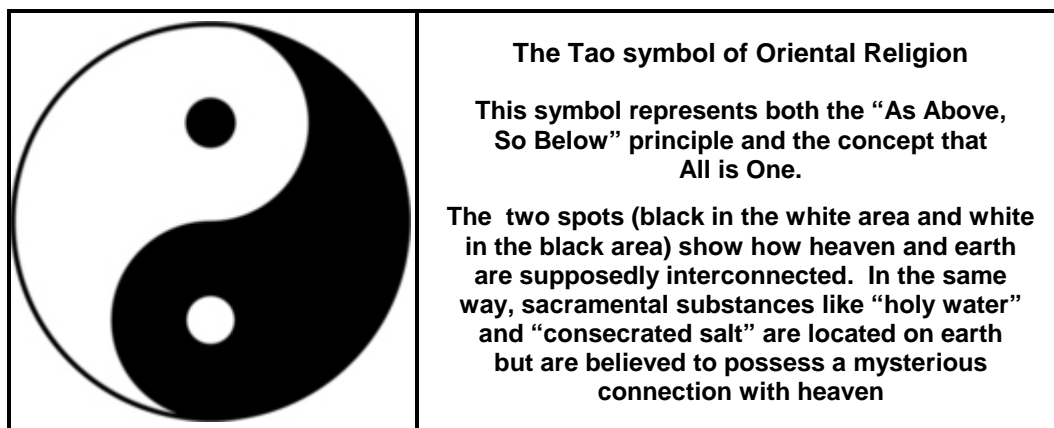
“What we see and experience in the physical realm is a reflection of what is taking place in the spiritual realm.” [p211]

This is almost certainly a novel idea to most Christians – and it ought to be! But it is a well known principle in the occult and usually expressed in four words, “As above, so below.” It means that anything that happens on the *physical plane* is connected with, and is a reflection of, something that is happening on a *higher plane*. Therefore, by observing the principle correctly, one is able to influence the spiritual realm and vice versa. It is also known as the principle of the microcosm and the macrocosm, where the individual bears within himself a perfect reflection of the universe as a whole. It forms the basis for astrology, tarot, alchemy, and the entire spectrum of Hermetic and Cabalistic systems of magic.

For example, the belief that one’s mind can affect the physical world is based on this principle. The Word Faith heresy works on this assumption, where one’s “faith” (meaning mind power) can be focused on a desired outcome which the universe then supplies (because the microcosm and the macrocosm are interconnected). In the NAR application of this principle, a “prophetic act” performed on a symbolic basis can, as Dr Petrie claims, have “an effect in the spiritual realm.” How? Because they are connected, as per the principle, *As above, so below*.

The New Age belief that *All is One* is founded on the same principle. Satan exploits this occult idea in as many ways as he can because it opposes virtually everything that the Bible teaches. If All is One, then man is connected directly to God and so contains within himself a spark of divinity. If All is One, there is no such thing as sin (since sin separates us from God, and that is not possible according to this philosophy). If All is One, there are no absolute moral values since no part of reality is completely separate from any other and all values are therefore relative. If All is One then death is simply a transition from one state to another, from one body to another, and should be welcomed as another step in one’s spiritual growth. If All is One then we are all on a cosmic journey of self-discovery into the depths of eternity. And so on.

So when Dr Petrie says, “What we see and experience in the physical realm is a reflection of what is taking place in the spiritual realm,” he is simply expressing an ancient occult principle. The “consecrated salt” and “holy water” are “consecrated” and “holy” respectively because they already partake of the supernatural realm. So by using them in “a prophetic act” one is able to exploit their connection with that realm to effect changes there.



The Enemy is importing New Age and occult ideas into 'Christianity' on a scale never seen before. Much of what passes for Christianity in modern 'evangelical' churches is actually occult in nature: Faith is a force; holiness is a feeling; truth comes from experience; revelation is ongoing; angels walk among us; Jesus talks to us; the Bible speaks subjectively to each one of us; contemplation is prayer; the Spirit is an energy that responds to creative visualization; God wants 'intimacy' with us; we must empty our minds; we must be 'open' to the spirit; all souls will be saved; meditation brings us closer to God; all is love and love is all; the demonic realm is subject to the authority of believers; sin is a misdemeanor; eternal hell is a myth; all truth is God's truth; the church is nondenominational; the church is evolving; knowledge of the spiritual laws will bring success; our dreams are an avenue to heaven; God is 'moving' in a new way; 'touch not my anointed'; 'don't put God in a box'; we must enter the 'silence'; we must be 'grounded' and 'centered'; every religion contains some of God's truth; we are the chosen generation; we have entered a new paradigm; 'new wineskin' believers alone are filled with the spirit; traditionalists block the work of God; departed loved ones can send us messages; the making of strange animal noises is an expression of the Holy Spirit; loss of bodily control is a sign of the Holy Spirit; anyone can be a prophet; miraculous healing is our birthright...and so on.


The NAR is permeated with many of these ideas. For example Dr Petrie says:

“Laws of physics, electricity and gravity were at work. The Body of Christ needs to learn similar spiritual laws – otherwise, we become dissatisfied and disappointed.” [*Transformed!* p66]

The belief that there are techniques and spiritual laws that we must master in order to serve God is grounded in the occult. It is deeply offensive to God and profoundly harmful to all professing Christians who reject His sovereignty in this way.

There would appear to be a concerted effort by the enemies of Christianity to accelerate this process of occult infiltration. Many of the books being promoted today by 'Christian' publishers are cleverly laced with New Age ideas. And because so many Christians today are Biblically illiterate, they fail to discern what is happening. For example, few Christians seem to realize that the *Jesus Calling* books by Sarah Young are occult poison.

Another well-known book, endorsed by many leading figures in the evangelical community – including Warren Wisbe, J I Packer, and Jack Hayford – is ***The Message*** by Eugene Peterson. While it professes to be a paraphrase of the Bible, it is in reality a blasphemous parody of God’s Holy Word. It even includes a vulgar, occult paraphrase of Matthew 6:9-13, sometimes called The Lord’s Prayer:

	<p>The traditional Hermetic representation of the principle As Above, So Below.</p> <p>This ancient principle of Cabala and Gnosticism has found its way into the church via cults like the New Apostolic Reformation.</p> <p>It is utterly repugnant to everything that the LORD teaches in His Holy Word and should be completely rejected by all true Christians.</p>
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Our Father in heaven,
 Reveal who you are.
 Set the world right;
 Do what's best -
As above, so below.
 Keep us alive with three square meals.
 Keep us forgiven with you
 and forgiving others.
 Keep us safe
 from ourselves and the Devil.
 You're in charge!

The fifth line **should** read: “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

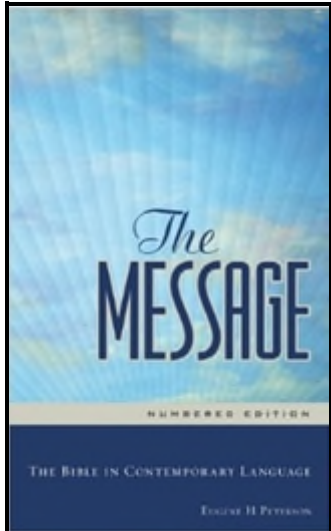
Compare this with a similar statement by Petrie and another by Wagner that we’ve already cited:

“The cleansing, redemption and healing of the land, facilitating the transformation of communities and the blessing of God for His people, is what faithful stewardship is all about. It can even be termed a reflection of heaven on earth. Are we not, after all, to be praying in this manner: “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10)?” [p242]

“I would think that God wants His next revival to be different. I would think He wants “[His] will done on earth as it is in heaven,” as Jesus taught us to pray; not to be a flash in the pan but to transform the societies in which we live on a long-term basis.”

[C Peter Wagner in the Foreword to *Transformed!*]

Should we be surprised that Wagner, Petrie and Peterson are distorting the Word of God in exactly the same way? I think not. The Enemy is far smarter than any of us.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Message:</i> <i>The Bible in Contemporary Language</i> by Eugene Peterson</p> <p>This book is neither a commentary on the Bible nor a translation but a “paraphrase”, a compilation of Mr Peterson’s personal renderings of each verse of the Bible. In short, it is NOT the Word of God at all but a blasphemous parody.</p> <p>Leading Bible ‘experts’ such as Warren Wisbe, J I Packer, and Jack Hayford have publicly <u>endorsed</u> this New Age perversion.</p> <p>Perhaps no other ‘Christian’ book today quite captures the Antichrist spirit of the age.</p>
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Ley Lines

We will now consider an element in Dr Petrie’s teaching that is so occult that it prompted Cindy Jacobs to comment as follows in her Foreword to ***Releasing Heaven on Earth***:

“Some of the material in this book is so cutting edge that the Body of Christ was not ready for it even five years ago. This particularly applies in the area of ley lines.”

What truth of the Bible is so “cutting edge” that it could not be revealed until the year 2000?

The ***Oxford English Dictionary*** defines a ley line as follows:

“a supposed straight line connecting three or more prehistoric or ancient sites, sometimes regarded as the line of a former track and associated by some with lines of energy and other paranormal phenomena.”

The NAR regard ley lines, not as speculative phenomena, but as proven realities. For example, on p158 of ***Releasing Heaven on Earth*** Dr Petrie quotes with approval from ***Spiritual Mapping Glossary*** by George Otis Jr. –

“Depending on the culture in which they are found, ley lines may be viewed either as conduits through which spiritual power is transmitted, or as demarcation lines for spiritual authority.”

The NAR regards ‘ley lines’, whatever they may be, as a “curse on the land”:

“Can the existence of ley lines be considered as a curse on the land?
The evidence leaves little room for doubt!” [p163]

According to Dr Petrie ley lines are a form of “demonic interplay” that Christians are required to address if they are to spread the gospel successfully. Since ley lines can extend over vast distances, intercessors must focus instead on “known power points” along the line and thereby weaken it substantially:

“After confession and repentance, we rebuke, bind and cast out whatever forms of demonic interplay God has revealed to us through our research and prayer, as well as through the witness of the people who live in that area or situation. Depending on the extent and depth of stewardship, ley lines may be in a contained area, or they can stretch for hundreds or even thousands of miles. Normally we have the authority to deal only with the local area in which we live and work and minister, but in breaking known power points along parts of a ley line, we are substantially weakening its effect in that area.” [p162-163] [Emphasis added]

The Chinese equivalent of ley line analysis is Feng Shui, the belief that rays of psychic energy extend in irregular patterns across the landscape and that anyone living in their path may be subject to their adverse influences. The Feng Shui ‘master’ must map these lines and determine what changes need to be made. Compare this with the NAR concept of “spiritual mapping”, which involves the use of research and prayer to identify demonic strongholds in a community so that intercessors can wage spiritual warfare against them:

“Spiritual mapping – otherwise known as cultural geography, cultural anthropology or spiritual epidemiology – has become a discipline of prayer that is now used in many facets of the Christian Church all over the world.” [*Transformed!* p217]

Note his use of the term *spiritual epidemiology*, meaning the diagnosis of a spiritual disease in a geographical location (rather like a Feng Shui master). Since research material and other objective data may not be available to help the intercessors identify the existence of a supernatural malady on a given street, they pray a special prayer for guidance. Presumably this allows them to “feel” or intuitively detect the presence of adverse vibrations. As a diagnostic technique, it is not unlike the intuitive detection of ‘bad energy’ by a psychic or a Reiki master.

Judging by the following, Dr Petrie himself would appear to use some kind of diagnostic technique to intuitively assess the true spiritual condition of a city:

“During my first visit to New Orleans, I was amazed at the immorality and party-going spirit I experienced. Later, after reflection and research, I realized that God had intended this to be a city of celebration and hospitality, giving praise to His goodness and love.” [p47]

(I laughed too.)

To counter the ‘bad’ energy in the ley lines, Dr Petrie believes that God has located springs or "wells" of good energy in each community, which the "stewards" are meant to care for:

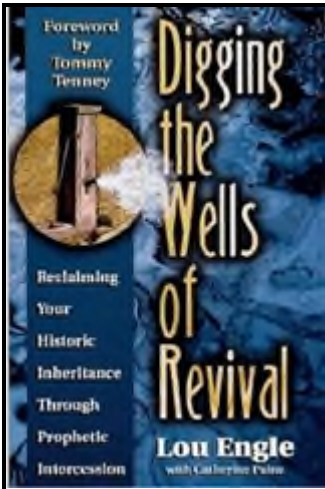
“Similarly, we must be stewards of the “wells” in our communities that were built and entrusted to us by our heavenly Father. Each community, city and nation in the world has its own particular distinctness, and if the well of life is not flowing in a way that brings God honor and glory, then we need to undertake whatever measure is necessary to re-dig the well. Doing so involves recognizing what God placed there in the beginning that was distinct and unique to that area but that became an issue exploited by the enemy.” [p126]

It is difficult to comment on statements like this – they are simply too bizarre. They don’t even try to connect with Biblical truth.

In addition to the “wells”, there would also appear to be a form of good energy above ground which is produced by prayer and acts like a force field:

“I shared with these people the importance of raising a canopy of prayer during the day – a type of prayer that protects all who come and go from that place and prohibits anybody from entering with an ulterior motive.” [p171]

The New Age pantheism implicit in all of this, where fields of 'good' and 'bad' energy permeate both the earth itself and the atmosphere above it, is truly breathtaking.

	<p>From the back cover:</p> <p>“Do you know that just beneath your feet are deep wells of revival? Are you aware that you are standing on bottomless geysers and fountains of the anointing and mandates of our spiritual forefathers and mothers that are just waiting to be released afresh to you?”</p> <p>The NAR teaches that the land holds a spiritual inheritance that can be reclaimed by a using a technique called “digging the wells”.</p>
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New Age Pantheism

The pantheistic worldview embedded in the doctrines of the NAR is well expressed in the following remarkable statement by Dr Petrie:

“As Christians we are called not *out* of the world, but rather *into* it, in order to make a difference as salt and light *to* the world. Part of our concern, then, necessitates dealing with the issues of acid rain, the ozone layer and the pollution of our environment...” [p28] [Emphasis in original]

In the new version of ‘Christianity’ being marketed by the NAR, ‘Christians’ are no longer called out of the world, but into it. After 1,900 years the *ecclesia*, the called out ones, have finally been evicted from the visible church. The real believers are the called-in ones, the special generation of people who are now here to “make a difference” in the world, the cosmic ecologists dedicated to healing and cleansing both the natural and supernatural realms.

In *Releasing Heaven on Earth* [p27], he quotes with approval an observation by Loren Wilkinson, editor of *Earthkeeping in the Nineties: Stewardship of Creation* –

“This growing awareness of our obligation to the earth...places Christians in a difficult position...When Christians affirm that God loved the world, and that Christ died for the life of the world, they are speaking not just of humanity, but of the whole planet – indeed, the whole created universe.”

According to this pantheistic revision of Biblical truth, Christ died, not to redeem mankind, but to redeem the planet and “the whole created universe.”

Showcase Locations


In *Transformed!* Petrie gives examples of communities that have allegedly been “transformed” by the NAR approach. These, he notes, are highlighted in the *Transformation* videos produced by the Sentinel Group (an NAR affiliate). They include Cali in Colombia, a city with a population of some 2.5 million; the municipality of Almolonga in the province of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, which has a population of about 12,000; and Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, which has a population of 1.2 million.

While it is not the purpose of this paper to test the validity of these claims, it must be stated that signs and wonders can never provide justification for a doctrine that does not accord with Biblical truth. Many find this hard to accept. They argue that seemingly miraculous events prove beyond all doubt that God is at work. But this is not so. Consider what the Word of God says about prophets who prophesy correctly but who nonetheless preach a message contrary to God’s Word:

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth [tests] you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 13:1-3)

Note that these are false prophets whom the LORD is using to test people who profess to believe in Him. Thus we can **never** use a miraculous or prophetic sign to determine the correctness or otherwise of a doctrine that is not in accord with God's Word!

We must also remember that Satan has power to perform supernatural signs, just as he did when Moses appeared before Pharaoh. Even though his powers are limited, anyone who has the ability to turn a staff of wood into a serpent, to transform water into blood, or to cause frogs to multiply miraculously, is well capable of performing wonders that will beguile and deceive most of mankind. The Bible warns that this will be a major pitfall for many professing believers in the End Time, where vast numbers will be led astray by "the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9).

<p>William Branham (1909-1965)</p> <p>- greatly admired by the NAR leadership -</p> 	<p>A Oneness Pentecostal, Branham rejected the Trinity and taught that God was One Person. He also taught that Satan fathered Cain by Eve (the 'Serpent Seed' heresy) and made many statements that implied he was the prophet Elijah.</p> <p>On the basis of countless visions and angelic visitations he propounded a seriously heretical brand of Christianity that greatly influenced a number of subsequent groups, including the New Apostolic Reformation, the Third Wave, the Latter Rain, the Vineyard Movement, Joel's Army, and the Manifest Sons of God.</p> <p>He taught that the Zodiac of astrology and the Egyptian pyramids embodied God's truth in the same way that the Bible did.</p>
<p>"...neither Edwards [Harry Edwards, famous psychic healer] nor Branham were able to perform cures when faced with born-again Christians who had committed themselves to the protection of Christ. In the case of Branham, I have experienced this myself. When he spoke in Karlsruhe and Lausanne, there were several believers among the audience – including myself – who prayed along these lines: "Lord, if this man's powers are from You, then bless and use him, but if the healing gifts are not from You, then hinder him." The result? On both occasions Branham said from the platform, "There are disturbing powers here. I can do nothing.""</p> <p>– Kurt Koch, <i>Occult ABC</i>, 1986</p>	

The Pelagian Heresy

Running through the entire heretical philosophy of the NAR is the conviction that most men are incapable of recognizing the truth of the gospel until they have first been liberated from territorial demonic oppression. Their spiritual blindness is caused mainly by the power of darkness. The NAR teachers believe that, once a person is permitted to live in a demon-free environment, he will be attracted, gradually and naturally, to the truth of the gospel. This innate tendency can be greatly accelerated if true believers demonstrate the power of the gospel through signs and wonders. Thus the strategic goals of the NAR are (1) to expel the territorial demons; (2) to demonstrate the power of the gospel through signs and wonders; and (3) to perform the first two steps in a systematic way, city by city, until entire nations are 'transformed' into Christian theocracies.

The NAR repeats most of the heresies and outrageous claims of its immediate predecessors – the Third Wave, the Latter Rain, the Vineyard Movement, the Manifest Sons of God, etc – and the heretics who cast them in their modern form, notably William Branham, John Wimber, Paul Cain, Oral Roberts, Franklin Hall, David du Plessis, Agnes Sanford, Aimee Semple McPherson, Kathryn Kuhlman, George Warnock, and E W Kenyon. Having said that, there is one heresy in particular that seems to underpin the lot. While it has been modified over the centuries, depending on social and historical circumstances, it teaches basically that man has some intrinsic goodness in him. Once this false premise is accepted, the individual can then exercise his 'goodness' and save himself by 'works', that is by his own efforts. This is often referred to as the Pelagian heresy, after a 4th century monk who spread it through parts of Western Europe. Many reasons are given as to why this 'goodness' is there – Christ eliminated original sin, man is essentially a spark of God, man is made in the image and likeness of God, and so forth. Regardless of how it is formulated, the heresy rejects the devastating consequences of the Fall and the horrifying implications of sin. It stops short of acknowledging that man is dead in trespasses and sins and utterly incapable of doing a single thing to advance his own salvation. Alas, unless the individual comes to this understanding – a true conviction of sin – then salvation is impossible and the new birth cannot occur.

The NAR disguises its Pelagian position by pointing continually to the demonic realm as the source of humanity's problems. Man sins only in response to dark supernatural influences. Those same baleful influences blind him to the truth of the gospel. But there is no reason why this should continue, they say. The solution is really quite simple: Believers need only claim and exercise their God-given right to bind the offending demons and, by working together as a team under the tutelage of the 'Apostles' and 'Prophets', drive them from the earth. That was what God had always intended! Man himself must bring in the Kingdom. He has finally reached the stage of spiritual maturity where he fully understands what is required of him. Once he does this, he has proven himself before God, the church has come of age, and Christ can return for His bride.

This is why the New Apostolic Reformation is proving so popular in so many countries around the globe. Seekers anxious for a direct personal experience of God can cast aside the supposedly stale doctrinal formulas of the past. Traditional, 'old wine' pastors can be replaced by 'new wine' spirit-filled warriors who know how to bind demons, speak forth words of fresh revelation, and open their congregation to the mighty power of God. The 'Apostolic outpouring' can finally be activated. Men can now appropriate the spiritual gifts and divine power that is their birthright. Under the guiding hand of the 'Apostles' and 'Prophets' they can at long last exercise their divine authority and bring in the Kingdom.

This is the Pelagian heresy in its most arrogant and triumphal form!

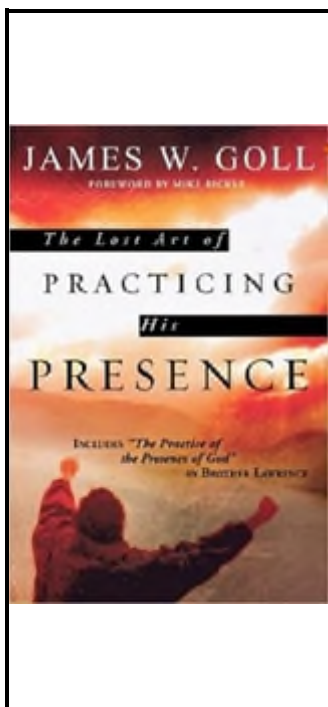
What a travesty of Biblical truth! This is what happens when false teachers preach the innate goodness of man, when the devastating consequences of sin are forgotten and men pretend yet again to participate in the exercise of God's sovereign authority.

When sin is no longer sin, grace is no longer grace. Here is how Bill Hamon defined the latter:

"Grace is God's divine unmerited enablements. It is God's free abilities (gifts, talents, etc.) being demonstrated through a human vessel in spite of sin and human frailties. It is having God's unearned supernatural ability to perform and execute whatever He has willed to the individual saint..."

– *Apostles, Prophets and the Coming Moves of God*, p286

In short, man has become a little god.

	<p><i>The Lost Art of Practicing His Presence</i> by James Goll.</p> <p>This book includes '<i>The Practice of the Presence of God</i>' by Brother Lawrence, a primer on contemplative mysticism by a French Roman Catholic.</p> <p>Not all NAR leaders teach contemplative mysticism but all teach the pursuit of prophecy and the use of techniques, such as contemplative spirituality, to generate prophetic messages, visions and "words".</p> <p>Contemplative prayer is <u>not</u> Biblical. Its primary exponents in the West have been Roman Catholic mystics who worshipped the Virgin Mary and a false Christ</p> <p>This book in effect is a call to professing Christians everywhere to unite under the banner of the Roman Catholic Church.</p>
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Conclusion

The teachings of Alistair Petrie are those of the New Apostolic Reformation, founded by C Peter Wagner. Dr Petrie enjoys the status of ‘Apostle’ and his books have been endorsed with forewords by Cindy Jacobs, C Peter Wagner and Peter Horrobin (whose writings have been lavishly praised by Wagner). He is therefore a leading figure in the New Apostolic Reformation and a recognized authority worldwide on NAR teaching and practice. Therefore any remarks we have made about Dr Petrie and his ministry apply equally to the NAR as a whole.

Many Christian leaders in the US have condemned the NAR as a cult. In light of the information set out in this paper, there can be no doubt that their assessment is well founded. While professing to be the only correct interpretation of Christianity in the world today, the NAR is actually a strange and disturbing counterfeit. This ought to be apparent from an impartial consideration of the many features in its teachings that fail to conform with Biblical truth [While the following list is sorted by category for ease of comprehension, some features may overlap]:

Church

1. Its redefinition of the true church as a visible, post-denominational body of Christians who are called *into* the world, not out of it.
2. Its depiction of the church as an ecumenical unity that embraces the Roman Catholic and liberal Protestant churches. [See **Appendix B.**]
3. Its flagrant clericalism, where ecclesial offices are created without any Biblical authority and appointees are deemed to have received a corresponding supernatural anointing. There is a strong similarity between the priestly hierarchy of Romanism and the ‘anointed’ hierarchy of the NAR.
4. Its dismissal of the church over the past 1,900 years as deficient, both in its understanding of God’s Word and in carrying out its divinely-ordained mandate. See also #14 regarding the foundation of the church.
5. Its use of “submission”, “apostolic covering” and similar concepts to regulate and control its members.

Gospel

6. Its reluctance to present a clear statement of the gospel and to impart the fundamental truths of born-again, Bible-believing Christianity.
7. Its determined refusal to put Christ and his substitutionary atonement at the center of its teaching.
8. Its inability to preach the gospel correctly, even if it wanted to, due to its completely inadequate understanding of sin and its Pelagian mindset.

Bible

9. Its grave misrepresentation of basic Biblical concepts, notably sin, judgment, repentance, authority, covenant, mercy, forgiveness, and sanctification.
10. Its flawed hermeneutic, where the Word of God is interpreted in an inconsistent and arbitrary way.
11. Its reliance on signs and wonders as evidence that its doctrines are correct, even if they conflict with the traditional evangelical interpretation of Scripture.
12. Its rejection of the Bible as the sole, sufficient, and absolute authority for all believers.
13. Its de facto teaching that ‘Apostles’ and ‘Prophets’ are both empowered and mandated to interpret Scripture for less ‘anointed’ believers.

Power Offices

14. Its reinstitution of the office of ‘Apostle,’ where a self-appointed elite presume to exercise in a vicarious, plenipotentiary capacity the sovereign authority of Christ. This includes the ‘right’ to reform the church and lay its foundation afresh.
15. Its appointment of ‘Prophets’ who in all cases to date, without exception, have failed the test of the prophets given in Deuteronomy 13 and 18, Jeremiah 27 and 28, and Isaiah 8.
16. Its doctrine of ‘steward’, which conflicts with the plain teaching of Scripture, granting fallen man a power and authority that he does not and cannot possess. This doctrine teaches that, in certain matters, God cannot exercise His sovereign will without the agreement and participation of man.
17. Its relentless emphasis on man’s potential to conquer adversity and secure a positive outcome in all aspects of life.

Sovereignty

18. Its rejection of the absolute, unconditional sovereignty of God, whose redemptive work is constrained by man’s limited understanding of, and thus failure to co-operate with, His prophetic plan. See also #14, #16, #19 and #21.
19. Its systematic use of techniques, such as “prayer walking” and “spiritual mapping,” which imply that the effectiveness of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is contingent upon human initiative and geographical considerations.

End Time

20. Its Dominionism or Kingdom Now theology, which rejects clear Biblical prophecies relating to the great End-Time apostasy, the Rapture, the Tribulation, and the coming reign of the Antichrist.
21. Its man-centered theology, which removes from Christ and assigns to the church the power and authority to bring in the Kingdom.
22. Its use of a Charismatic, signs-and-wonders model of 'revival' that is not found in Scripture.

Occultism

23. Its New Age and pantheistic worldview, its "theology of the land", and its insidious use of gnostic philosophy.
24. Its systematic use of tools and techniques that are either sacramental or occult.
25. Its general acceptance and use of the occult principle, 'As Above, So Below.'

Spiritual Warfare

26. Its determination to wage war on, and interact with, the demonic realm, which is expressly forbidden in Deuteronomy 18.
27. Its doctrine of 'demon free' locations, which has no scriptural support. Not even Jerusalem in the time of Christ and the true Apostles was ever described in such terms.
28. Its continued exploration of pagan teachings in order to identify their 'useful' spiritual elements – which the Bible expressly forbids.

The list could be greatly extended. For example, we haven't had time to address other irrational and irregular aspects of NAR teaching and practice, such as identificational repentance, God's special regard for cities, corporate stewardship, spiritual DNA, the Elijah List, the NAR 'Apostles' in the role of Elijah in the End Time, the Jezebel Spirit, *rhema* and *logos*, open theism, impartation, judicial intercession, prophetic decrees, spiritual portals, 'soaking', out-of-body experiences, the Josiah Generation, the Tabernacle of David, recorded giving and financial targets, marketplace evangelism, direct participation in political activities, the seven principles of transformation, the seven blessings of God on the land, and so forth.

What makes the NAR more dangerous than most pseudo-Christian cults is its unhealthy fascination with the demonic realm. Its leaders have an abysmal understanding of the power that fallen angels can exercise over those who are naïve and gullible enough to believe they can enter their realm and push them about. Intercessors who persist in this activity are putting themselves in harm's way.

There are no instances anywhere in the Bible where any of God's people performed the bizarre demon-cleansing rituals that the NAR cult engages in. For example, Paul went to Ephesus, Corinth and Athens, cities steeped in paganism and demon worship, and yet never once did he seek to "cleanse" any part of them! Ephesus was home to the famous Temple of Diana, perhaps the greatest center of goddess worship in the ancient world, a place where, if demons congregated anywhere, they did so there! The book of Acts records that when her votaries became enraged by the presence of Christians in their midst, they chanted non-stop for two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians"! Despite this demon-inspired demonstration, Paul did not at any time rebuke the dark supernatural power that was working among them.

Deuteronomy 18 absolutely forbids interaction of any kind with the supernatural realm, no matter how altruistic one's motives. The modern equivalents of the persons identified by the LORD – a diviner, an enchanter, a charmer, a wizard, a witch, a necromancer, an observer of times (astrologer), and a consulter with familiar spirits – may all be "doing good" in their own eyes. Nevertheless, they all violate God's law by interacting with the supernatural realm. **This is absolutely forbidden in Scripture.** The ONLY exception is the license that believers have in certain circumstances to command demons, in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, to depart from a person held in bondage by them.

It certainly suits the Enemy to have professing Christians engage in time-wasting and utterly futile "spiritual warfare." Instead of preaching the gospel, they are placing their attention for extended periods on Satan and his power. Rather than trusting in God to clear a path for his servants, they are trusting instead in themselves, in their "holy water" and their "consecrated salt," and in their supposedly efficacious "warrior" techniques.

Error builds on error. Having departed from the Word of God as their sole absolute standard of truth, the NAR leaders have no way of distinguishing truth from error and will drift further and further into the occult and the paranormal, lured no doubt by signs, visions, dreams, revelations, prophecies, "revivals" and "results."

Keith Gibson studied the New Apostolic Reformation and its teachings for nine years. Regarding the mindset of "spiritual warfare" that predominates in the NAR, he noted:

"Today I am confident that not only is this teaching not Biblical, it is actually occultic in nature. I don't make this statement lightly. I have studied and written on the subjects of the New Age, Wicca and even tribal religion. The modern teaching on spiritual warfare has more in common with these practices than anything that can be found in the pages of the New Testament (the book that is supposed to teach us, among other things, how Christians are to live)."

- *Wandering Stars*, p289

Having witnessed the methods of the NAR first hand, I can confirm that they are marketing a polished product, that their presenters are well prepared, and that they have a ready response to almost any question that an audience might throw at them. They also *seem* to be sincere in what they are trying to achieve. And yet they are teaching a counterfeit version of true Christianity.

A cult or simply cult-like?

How much error, aberrant behavior, exotic doctrine and downright heresy must an organization have in order to qualify as a cult?

Consider the following characteristics of the NAR:

- It undermines the absolute and unconditional sovereignty of God.
- It permits 'prophetic' pronouncements that reinterpret Scripture.
- It creates a foundational office that has not existed for 1,900 years.
- It fills that office by fiat with over 500 appointees.
- It profanes and trivializes the Biblical office of prophet.
- It confuses clairvoyance and clairsaudience with prophecy.
- It encourages a study of and direct interaction with the "spirit realm."
- It redefines many core Biblical concepts and thus the doctrines that employ them.
- It imports many occult and New Age ideas and practices in a 'christianized' form.
- It presumes to have the right to reform the church and lay its foundation afresh.
- It rejects the evangelical understanding of most End Time prophecies.
- It rejects the centrality of Israel in the Kingdom promises.
- It rejects the Rapture and Tribulation as major End Time events.
- It enforces a climate where Scriptural rebuke is virtually impossible.
- It assigns to man a power and authority that he does not and cannot possess.
- It redefines the church in radically ecumenical terms.
- It employs a hierarchical control structure.
- It employs an eccentric and manipulative hermeneutic.
- It places an unscriptural emphasis on mystical and miraculous experiences.
- It is continually 'evolving' and assimilating new ideas.
- It fails to teach a clear, Christ-centred gospel.

No matter how one defines the term, there is not the slightest doubt that the NAR is a cult.

Be warned, the New Apostolic Reformation is a dangerous, fully-formed counterfeit of true Christianity that will do real spiritual harm to all who get involved with it.

**“For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait,
as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.”**

- Jeremiah 5:26

**Jeremy James
Ireland
November 10, 2013**

APPENDIX A

‘Apostles’ by Region

Based on the official membership list of the
International Coalition of Apostles (2005)

USA	260	Barbados	1
Canada	14	Bulgaria	1
Indonesia	8	China	1
Great Britain	6	Côte d’Ivoire	1
Nigeria	6	Croatia	1
Australia	5	Fiji	1
India	5	Greece	1
Mexico	5	Israel	1
Puerto Rico	4	Italy	1
Brazil	3	Kenya	1
Guatemala	3	Malawi	1
Singapore	3	Malaysia	1
Bahamas	2	Nepal	1
Costa Rica	2	Romania	1
Ghana	2	Serbia & Montenegro	1
Japan	2	South Korea	1
Kazakhstan	2	Spain	1
Netherlands	2	Sweden	1
Norway	2	Switzerland	1
South Africa	2	Ukraine	1
Uganda	2		
Zimbabwe	2		

Among the ‘Apostles’ listed were:

Ché Ahn	Cindy Jacobs
Beth Alves	Alistair Petrie
Harold Caballeros	Chuck Pierce
Wesley Campbell	Dutch Sheets
John Eckhardt	Ed Silvoso
Bill Hamon	C Peter Wagner
Rick Heeran	Lance Wallnau
Os Hillman	Barbara Yoder

APPENDIX B

***The following shows how the New Apostolic Reformation
will be used to stealthily draw all professing Christians
into the Roman Catholic Church***

Elijah List posting October 1, 2013

SOURCE: http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=12625
[Emphasis in original]

A Radical Company of Believers Will Arise in the Catholic Church by Patricia King Oct 1, 2013



Over the course of many years I have heard various judgments and complaints against the Catholic Church from fellow Believers. Some proclaimed that the Pope was the anti-Christ, others stated that the Roman Catholic Church was Babylon and would burn under the judgment of God, and yet others described the Catholic Church as being steeped in witchcraft. I realize that in any organization there can be the good, the bad, and the ugly. There are many things that the Spirit of God will work out in our midst as He perfects those things that concern us...and that is for all of us.

My personal experience with Catholic Believers for the most part has been very encouraging. I am grateful for their adherence to the Nicene Creed as their statement of belief, and I am very thankful for their care for the poor and their public righteous standards regarding marriage and pro-life values.

The Catholics I have known are Spirit-filled Believers who are fully devoted to following Christ. I love them and have been blessed by their hunger for the Lord. I am confident that the Lord will burn up the dross of impurities in the Catholic Church even as He will in ALL His Body.

In January of 2013, I received a prophetic word over a Catholic woman who was in one of our meetings. The gist of it, was that **a move of God was coming to the Catholic Church**. I could feel the potency in the word and I was excited.

In March 2013, Francis became the Pope. In May, I was watching a television report revealing one of Pope Francis' ministry trips into South America.

As I watched this, I was again quickened with the word about a move of Spirit in the Catholic Church:

Word for Catholics From May 2013:

A move of the Spirit of God is coming to the Catholic Church. **The youth in particular will be ignited with a fresh fire of zeal and passion for Christ and His Gospel**. A radical company of Believers will arise in the Catholic Church during this move, and they will release a flow of God's love and truth into the nations.

The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation will visit entire gatherings, and Catholics will be filled with fresh insights involving the glory of God, His Kingdom and His righteousness.

These insights will bring alignment to many areas within the core of the Catholic Church and will release more demonstrations of the power of Christ.

The justice and righteousness of God will be made known to many through radical Catholics who are willing to proclaim the truth in love. There are intercessors in the Catholic Church even now who are giving birth to this move. The Pope will endorse it.

Pray for the Catholics.

Patricia King

[Note: Patricia King is a leading 'Apostle' and author of numerous NAR books.]

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For further information about the ongoing attack on true Biblical Christianity, visit www.zephaniah.eu
